

**THE FAVOURITE'S
LUST FOR POWER** Pulling the corset
and purse strings
of Queen Anne



**WEIRD WWII
INVENTIONS**
An iceberg aircraft carrier?



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EUROPE**

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What if the Ides
Of March plot
had failed?

◆ **THE TRUE TUDOR QUEEN** ◆

CATHERINE *of* ARAGON

From abandoned wife to battlefield
conqueror: uncover the real story of
England's Spanish rose



**Sex, Drugs
& Oils**

The tragic life of Vincent
Van Gogh in his own words



ISSUE 075

DigitalEdition

**Madam
President**

We peek inside the secret
presidency of Edith Wilson



PLUS... REBELS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, INCREDIBLE TEXTS OF THE ANCIENTS, HOW THE BATTLE OF TOURS WAS WON, INSIDE THE STUNNING TOPKAPI PALACE

A smiling man with a family tree overlay and a pie chart showing his genetic heritage. The pie chart is divided into four segments: IRELAND & SCOTLAND (55%), ITALY (16%), NORWAY (8%), and ENGLAND, WALES, & NW EUROPE (21%). The family tree shows four ancestors: a woman, a man, a woman, and a man. The man's name and dates are listed below his photo.

Antonio Mancuso
1875 - 1946

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new readers on
page 42

Whether Thomas Wolsey was a true enemy of Catherine of Aragon is to be debated, but he certainly put everything he had into pushing through the divorce between her and Henry VIII

Welcome

Often our study of history is within documents and books, so it's nice to be able to see it living in front of you. Tangible, tactile history you can breathe in. For that and many other reasons it was a pleasure to attend this year's 'Katharine Of Aragon' Festival in Peterborough and get a sense of her legacy as it stands today. Laying now in Peterborough Cathedral she remains something of a tragic figure, but there's also great strength and resilience in her tale, right up to the end.

This issue we asked Dr Nicola Tallis to reassess the tale of Catherine of Aragon and to look not so much at the Great Matter and her divorce from Henry VIII, but at the young Spanish princess who fought for her right to be queen of England after her first husband (Henry's elder brother Arthur, heir to the throne) died only a few months after their marriage. We wanted to look at how she ruled England as regent in Henry's absence and

defended the realm from Scottish forces. There's so much more to her story than being Henry's first wife and it was great to dig into that here.

And in Peterborough they still honour her loyalty today, not just to her marriage vows, but to her adopted home as well. For all the trials and hardships she was forced to face, she remained devoted to the nation until her death, refusing to give up her title as the true Tudor queen. There's something admirable about that.

**Jonathan
Gordon**
Editor



Editor's picks



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We find out what echoes of the Ottoman Empire exist today as we speak with writer and journalist Alev Scott about her fascinating new book



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Van Gogh

Learn all about the life and hardships of Vincent van Gogh direct from his own letters in this fascinating analysis of his meandering life



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The Favourite

The excellent Andrea Zuvich takes a closer look at the life of Sarah Churchill and the real story of her relationship with Queen Anne

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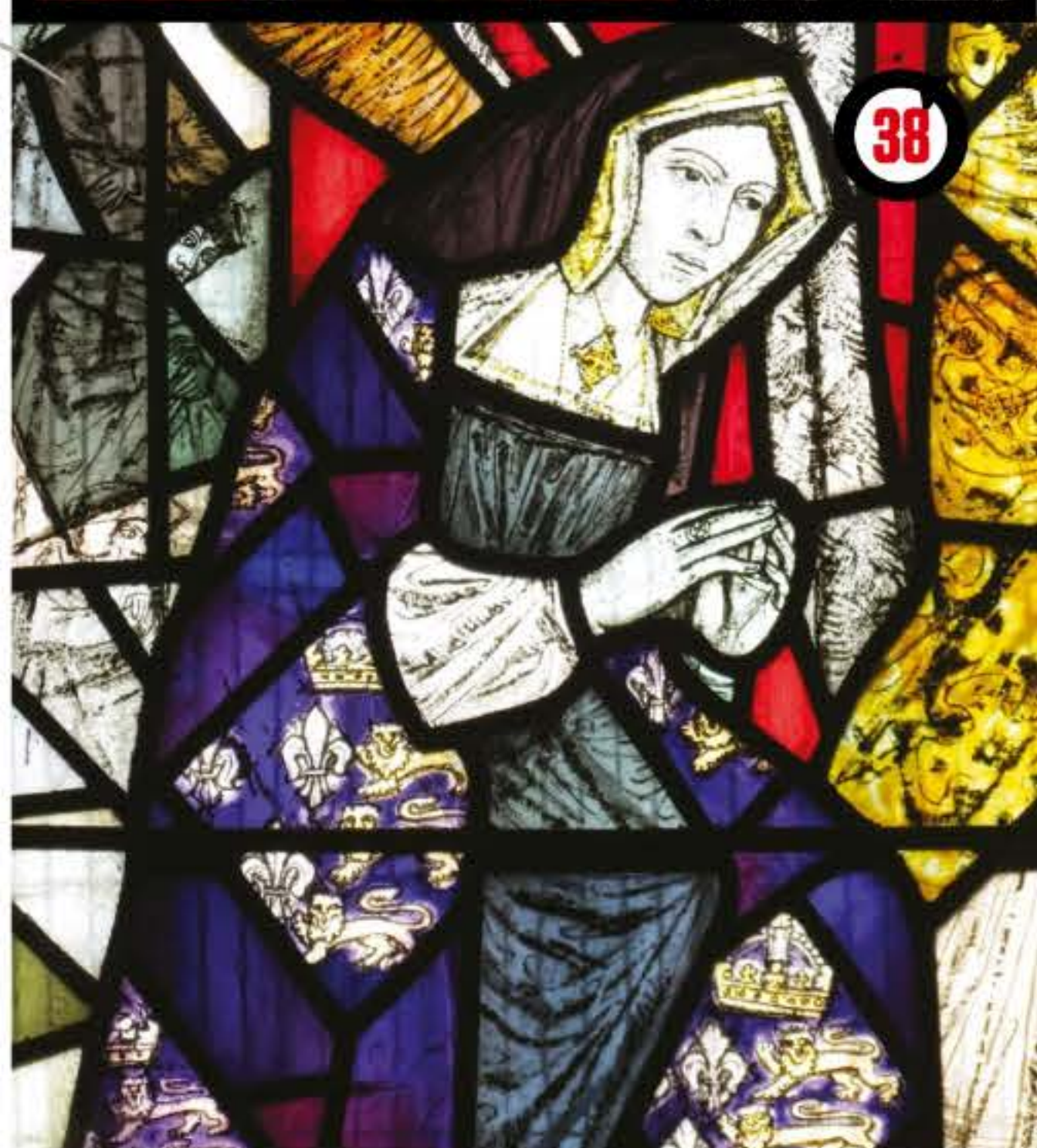
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DEFINING MOMENTS

RECTORY REFORM

A growing movement within the Anglican church for the ordination of women finally won over in the Church of England in March 1994 as, 76 years after the suffrage movement won the vote for women, they were being made priests. The move was not without its critics in conservative circles, leading to breakaway groups, but it was part of a trend that gained new momentum after Barbara Harris was made a bishop in 1989.

1994





DEFINING MOMENTS

SLICK SHAME

Almost nine million gallons of crude oil was spilled into the Prince William Sound off the coast of Alaska after the Exxon Valdez oil tanker struck Bligh Reef in March 1989. The slick it created would go on to cover 1,300 miles of coastline and 11,000 square miles of ocean. The remoteness of the location made it a particularly challenging environmental disaster to remedy. It's estimated that between 100,000 and 250,000 seabirds were killed.

1989



DEFINING MOMENTS

A FAST FOR FREEDOM

One of the powerful tools in Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's toolbox in his fight for Indian independence and social justice was putting his own life on the line in protest through fasting. Mahatma Gandhi undertook 17 fasts during the freedom movement against British imperial rule. Here he is pictured taking a last meal in Rajkot, before a fast to protest the autocratic nature of the state, to force political reforms.

1939





***“Whoever possesses Constantinople
ought to rule the world”***

Napoleon Bonaparte

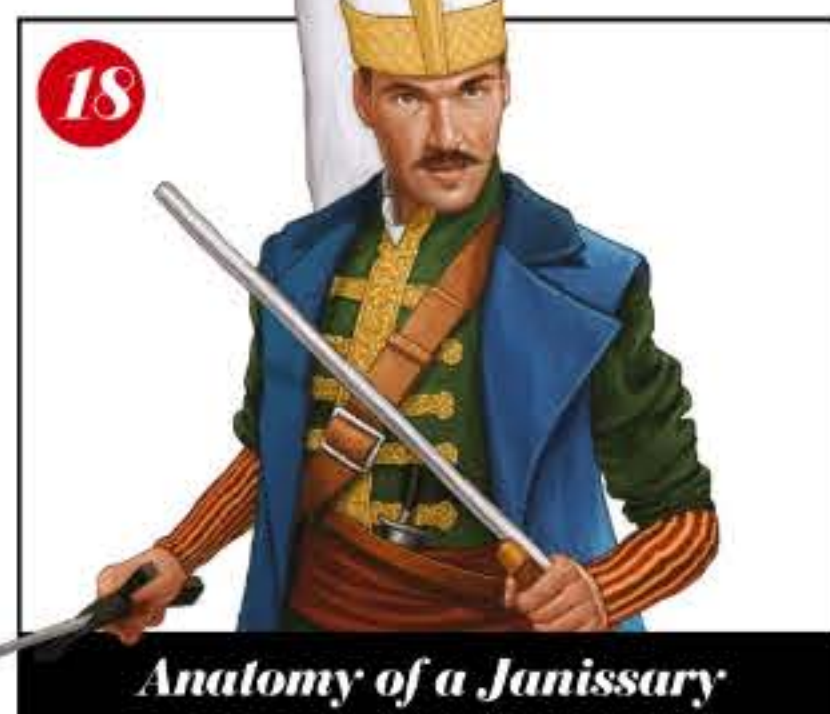


THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

From its great architectural wonders, to the echoes of the empire that still exist today, we take a look at one of the most powerful and long-lasting forces in history



Inside the Topkapi Palace



Anatomy of a Janissary



Rebels against the empire



Explore Ottoman mosques

Written by Katharine Marsh, Alice Barnes-Brown, Marwan Kamel



OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Ottoman Rise & Fall

Positioned at the gateway between Europe and Asia, the Ottoman Empire ruled victorious for 600 years until it crashed and burned

A NEW BEGINNING

Under the leadership of a man called Osman, a Seljuk Turk, a new empire is founded in Anatolia. It is named the Ottoman Empire, after its first sultan who creates the Imperial House of Osman.



FALL OF GALLIPOLI

Orhan, son of Osman I, orders a raid the shores of the Sea of Marmara and Gallipoli. The Ottomans take the area, which is their first victory in mainland Europe. More are to follow.



C.1299

1354

A SHRINKING EMPIRE



The Ottoman Empire steadily loses more and more territory, including modern-day Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria. The empire becomes known as the Sick Man of Europe.

CRIMEAN WAR ENDS

Russia invades the Crimea, which is under the control of the Ottomans. The Turks win, forcing Russia to withdraw, after pulling in other European powers.



LONDON STRAITS CONVENTION

A treaty is signed between the European powers, Russia and the Ottoman Empire to ensure the freedom of transit through the Turkish Straits, connecting the Mediterranean to the Black Sea.

GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Rebelling against Ottoman rule, the Greeks begin a war of independence. The Greeks win the bloody conflict thanks to intervention from European nations.



The sultan finally recognised the Greek state in 1832 with the Treaty of Constantinople

1878-1912

1853-56

1841

1821-32

BALKAN WARS

Prior to the conflict, the Ottomans hold

169,300 SQUARE KILOMETRES of land in Europe - most of which they lose in 1913

The wars comprise

2 MILITARY CONFLICTS fought back-to-back

Macedonia is divided among

3 COUNTRIES Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria

YOUNG TURKS STAGE A COUP

Nationalist revolutionary group the Young Turks take power by force, creating unrest among the empire's many minorities. They try to modernise the Ottoman state but their foreign policy is a disaster.

The Young Turks were founded in 1889 and they wanted a modern, more liberal empire



WORLD WAR I

When war breaks out across Europe, the Ottomans join the Germans. However, things go badly for them during the conflict and they lose hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

1912-13

1913

1914

AN ALBANIAN HERO

Skanderbeg becomes a national hero in

1443

by organising a rebellion against the Ottomans

He repels

13 Ottoman invasions over **25 YEARS**

Over

1,000

works have been written about him since in 20 languages

INTO CONSTANTINOPLE

Under the control of Sultan Mehmed II, the Ottomans lay siege to Constantinople, the heart of the Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire. The Ottomans win and make it their new capital.



SELIM I TAKES SYRIA, ARABIA, PALESTINE AND EGYPT

The Ottomans gain more land, taking Syria in 1516 and Egypt the following year under Sultan Selim II.



1443-68

1453

1516

BATTLE OF VIENNA

Having tried to invade Vienna several times before, the Ottomans attempt to take the city once more. They are defeated, and they never try to siege Vienna again.



1683

CONQUEST OF TUNIS



With the Spanish Empire holding Tunis, up to 100,000 Ottomans lay siege to the city. The Spanish surrender in November and the Ottomans take over.

1535

SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT

Suleiman reigns for

46 years

He wages war against Persia

3X

bringing more land under his control

The sultan also expands his territory in Europe, becoming

1 OF 4 leading monarchs

1520-66

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The facts are still uncertain today, but in 1915, 1.5 million Armenians are killed. Most of those who aren't killed are driven through the hostile mountains and deserts with no food, water or shelter.



1915

1916



THE ARAB REVOLT

The Ottoman emir in Mecca rises up, but claims that he is fighting against the nationalists in Istanbul, not the sultan. The British see this as the perfect time to invade Jerusalem, and they take the holy city.

The British are led by Edmund Allenby, and they captured Jerusalem in December 1917

ROAD TO THE REPUBLIC

The sultanate is abolished on

1 NOV 1922

The Treaty of Lausanne is signed

24 JULY 1923

The republic is proclaimed on

29 OCTOBER 1923

with Mustafa Kemal as the new president

1922



OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Harem

The harem was where, traditionally, female members of the sultan's family lived. Wives, concubines, plus his own mother and children lived within its impenetrable walls. More than 300 rooms, plus a host of other buildings, made up the harem. In the 16th century, the sultan himself (Murad III) moved into the harem, preferring its security and closer proximity to his family. The harem was a far cry from the exotic brothels portrayed by Western art – it was a place of worship, ritual cleanliness, court intrigue and family life as well as sex.

Tower of Justice

The tallest part of the Topkapi Palace, it watches over the Bosphorus and is visible from miles around. It is one of the newer additions to the palace, as it was constructed only after a fire in 1665 had destroyed a significant part of Mehmed II's original buildings. It was adjacent to the Divan (the place where the Imperial Council had meetings), so the Sultan had a grate installed so he could sit and listen to proceedings from the next room.

Mosque of the Agas

Built at a diagonal angle so that it could face Mecca, the Mosque of the Agas is the oldest mosque in the Topkapi complex, as it was built in the time of Mehmed II. It was reserved for the elite – only the Sultan, white eunuchs and students of the Inner Palace School were allowed to use it. Nowadays, it holds the manuscripts originally held in Ahmed III's library.

Divan

Built from stunning white marble and adorned with green and gold, the Divan was the place where the Imperial Council would meet four times a week. This was undoubtedly one of the most important places in the entire palace. Once meetings were over, on some days viziers could present petitions to the Grand Vizier – the man who was only one step below the Sultan.

Outer Treasury

This red brick building is now a weapons museum, containing Abbasid and Umayyad arms as well as a vast range of Ottoman ones. However, it used to be the official treasury of the Ottoman Empire, containing vast quantities of gold and silver used to keep the Sultan's coffers well stocked. The money inside was used to pay the Sultan's personal soldiers, as well as sending funds to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Gate of Salutation

This gate now forms the main entrance to the Topkapi Palace museum, and was one of Mehmed II's original features. However, the two iconic turrets either side of the gate were added by Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century. It divides the First Courtyard – where more or less anyone could roam freely – from the palace proper. The inscription above the iron gate reads the Q'uranic phrase "there is no god but God, Muhammad is the prophet of God".



THE TOPKAPI PALACE

ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 1460-1478

In almost 400 years of its history, Istanbul's iconic Topkapi Palace grew so important that it eventually operated as a city within a city, housing thousands at a time. It wasn't just the Sultan's opulent residence - it was the heart of Ottoman society, acting as its high-security administrative centre, royal court, and even an entertainment venue.

The Topkapi Palace sits pride of place at the top of a hill overlooking the Bosphorus, Golden Horn, and Sea of Marmara. The site was strategically important, and in the days of Byzantium was used as Constantinople's very own Acropolis. When the Ottoman Turks conquered the city in 1453, they destroyed much of it - but new ruler Mehmed II recognised the site's potential.

He designed and constructed the Topkapi Palace according to his unique vision. The palace featured four courtyards, each serving a different function. However, Mehmed II himself only lived there for three years, as he died in 1481. His successors made their own tweaks, resulting in a vast range of architectural styles within the walls.

Any unarmed Ottoman citizen was permitted to enter the First Courtyard, allowing a thriving trade to spring up within the palace grounds. The Second Courtyard was where governmental business took place. The Third and Fourth courtyards were the most secretive, and encompassed the Sultan's private quarters. Inside the complex, you'd find mosques, government buildings, libraries, living space and vast collections of armour, weapons, jewellery and pottery.

But while the teeming Topkapi remained crucial to the Ottoman capital for hundreds of years, the Empire's needs eventually outgrew the Topkapi's capacity. In 1856, the Sultan moved himself and his government to the newer Dolmabahçe palace, leaving the Topkapi with only a few functions. However, after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, it has found a new lease of life as a museum, receiving over 3 million visitors per year.

Kiosks

In the Fourth Courtyard, you'll find a number of pavilions and small buildings called 'kiosks', constructed in a range of architectural styles. Some were built to commemorate famous military victories, such as at Yerevan and Baghdad, and others were built purely for the Sultan's pleasure. The newest one, the Mediciye Kiosk, was built in 1859 by the same architect who designed the Dolmabahçe Palace.

Library of Ahmed III

Built in the early 18th century by the book-loving Sultan Ahmed III, this library once contained masterpiece works from all reaches of the Ottoman Empire, including Greek and Slavic manuscripts. Members of the Ottoman court were free to use the library, though removing any of the books from its shelves meant harsh punishment.

Audience Hall

Here, the Sultan would receive important guests, such as Islamic scholars, foreign ambassadors, and state officials. In this room, he would be informed of the decisions made by the Imperial Council should he be absent from their meetings, overseeing the governance of the entire Empire. Its stunning interior was designed to reflect the might of the Empire, and impress all those who stepped within its walls.

Gate of Felicity

The Gate of Felicity served as the main entryway to the Sultan's private residence, where he would retreat to at the end of a long and hard day's work. As well as serving this purpose, it also had a ceremonial role, and could be used as a place to pay homage to the Sultan. During enthronement ceremonies, the Ottoman throne would be symbolically put in front of the gate. The throne would also be placed there when discontent in the Empire was brewing, as the Sultan would receive his loyal Janissaries within the confines of the Second Courtyard.



Sultan Mehmed II ordered the initial construction around the 1460s



OTTOMAN EMPIRE

BORK HAT

Their long, floppy, wool hat was shaped to resemble the sleeve of the Pîr - the spiritual master. Their esprit d'corp relied on the Bektashi Sufi Order. Forced to disband in the creation of the Mansure Army in 1826 (1830 in Algiers), the Order's strength remained - outlawed in the creation of the Republic.

MUSKET

Early adopters of firearms, the Janissaries also oversaw their manufacture. The earliest being more like hand cannons, they evolved into flint and matchlock muskets. As these were slow-loading and often unreliable, they also continued to carry their composite, double recurve bows up until the 17th century - later being mostly symbolic.

KILIÇ

Most effective at a distance, Janissaries were lightly armoured for mobility. If that failed, they resorted to melee weapons like the iconic curved kılıç, axes, and a small round shield. Since these were not primary weapons, they varied greatly and were sometimes discards from previous battles or other Ottoman units.

POWDER HORN AND AMMUNITION

At their waist, they carried small leather pouches for ammunition and a powder horn. They were shock troops, relying on their raucous Mehter military band - later inspiring Mozart - prior to a siege and tremendous noise of their early firearms to strike fear into the hearts of their enemies.

OUTER WEAR

16th century Flemish diplomat De Busbecq observed that the Ottomans paid great attention to making sure that the Janissaries were well taken care of, fed, and clothed for all conditions. Therefore, they had a wide variety of outerware, with imperial guards even wearing draped leopard skins.



JANISSARY

OTTOMAN EMPIRE,
C. 16TH CENTURY

HIRKA

First drawn from Balkan Christian devşirme tributes, then paid mercenaries, Murad I created the yeniçeri (new soldier) as highly disciplined and uniformed slave soldiers - loyal only to the Sultan. In contrast to the chain mail and armour of other units, they wore only a brightly coloured cloth Hirka.

YATAĞAN

An iconic dagger tucked into their cummerbund, their forward recurved yatağans were smaller than normal, so as to not encumber movement. As it was guardless, it was the last line of defence.



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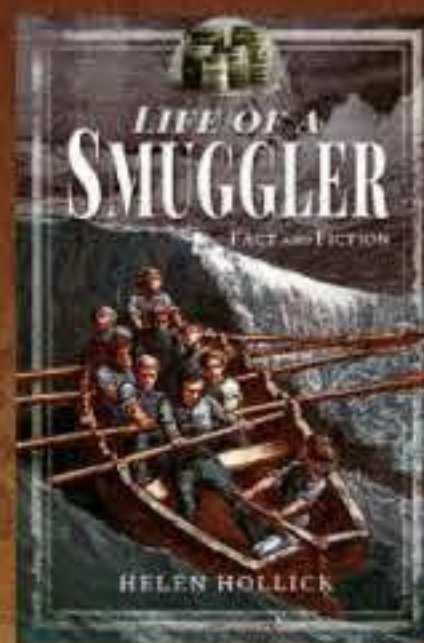
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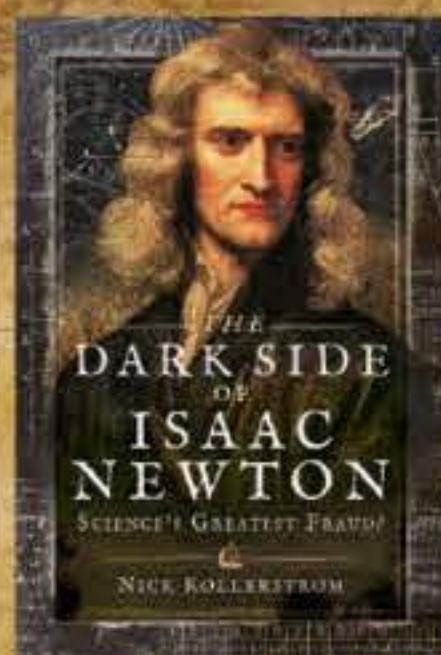
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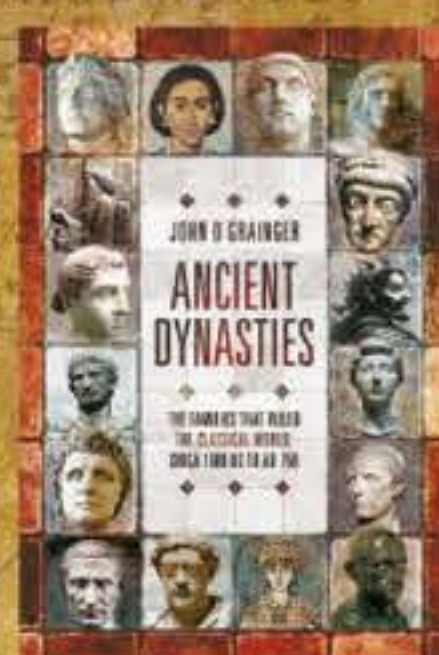
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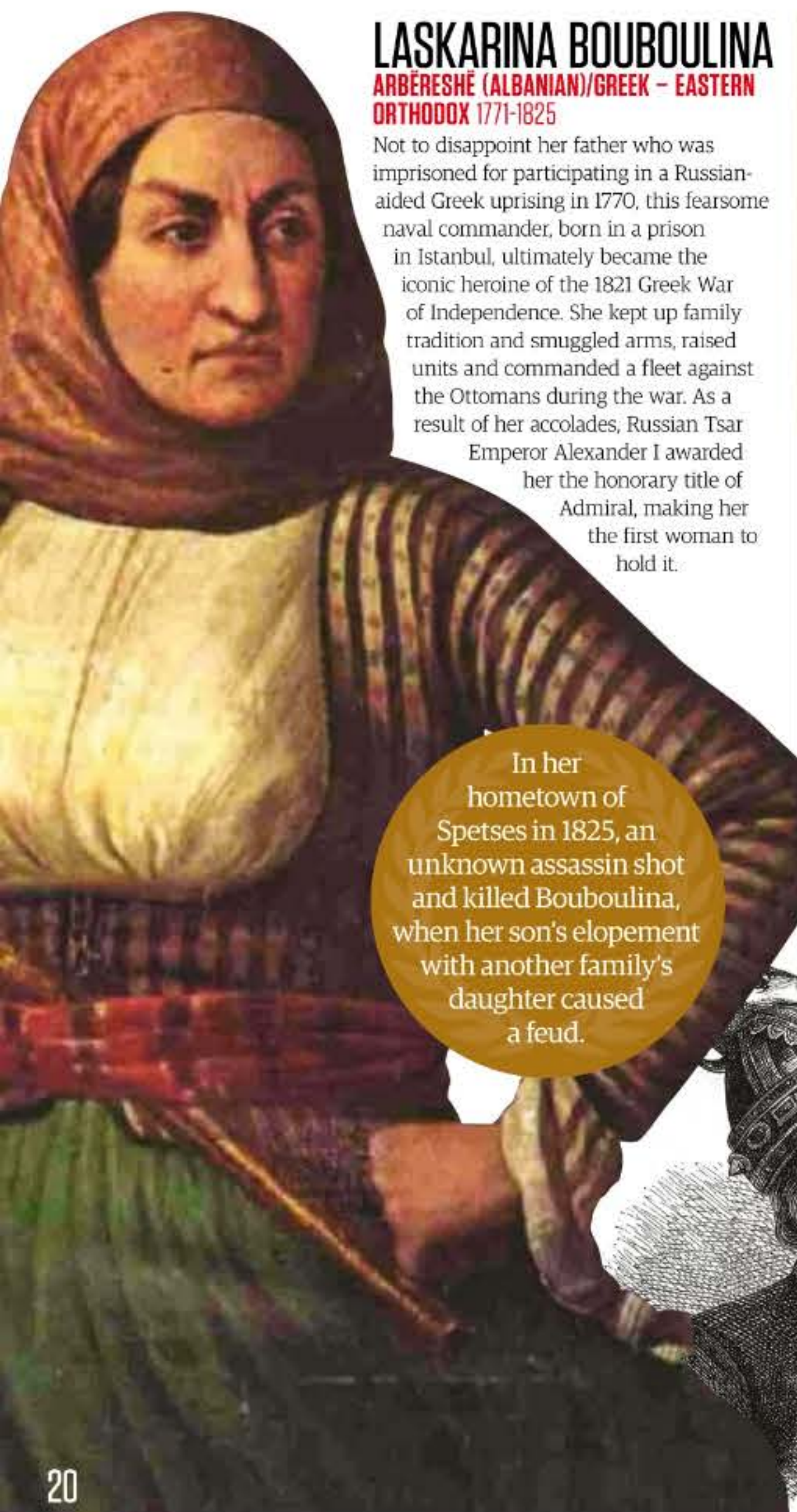
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THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE REBELS

The Empire's reign was as volatile as it was long. Fraught throughout with widespread rebellion, these forces would come to unravel it



LASKARINA BOUBOULINA

ARBËRESHË (ALBANIAN)/GREEK - EASTERN ORTHODOX 1771-1825

Not to disappoint her father who was imprisoned for participating in a Russian-aided Greek uprising in 1770, this fearsome naval commander, born in a prison in Istanbul, ultimately became the iconic heroine of the 1821 Greek War of Independence. She kept up family tradition and smuggled arms, raised units and commanded a fleet against the Ottomans during the war. As a result of her accolades, Russian Tsar Emperor Alexander I awarded her the honorary title of Admiral, making her the first woman to hold it.

In her hometown of Spetses in 1825, an unknown assassin shot and killed Bouboulina, when her son's elopement with another family's daughter caused a feud.



MARYANA MARRASH

SYRIAN - MELKITE 1848-1919

Many on this list led armed rebellions; Marrash represented intellectual revolution. Part of the Nahda (rebirth) literary movement, she was the first woman published in the Arab dailies. She revived the tradition of salons, composing original work and discussing ideas in both Western and Eastern literature. Along with her Turkish counterparts contributing to the magazine Kadin - at the centre of the Young Turk movement - she represented an undercurrent of Ottoman feminists championing future rights.

SULTAN PASHA AL 'ATRASH

SYRIAN - DRUZE 1888-1982

This hero of Syrian nationalism fought for independence in the Levant, not only from the Ottomans, but also the succeeding French occupation, and even the Syrian government during a time of contentious dictatorships. After his father led a brutally repressed revolt in 1909, al 'Atrash developed a network of Arab nationalists across the region. In 1918, his forces were the first to enter Damascus and raise the Arab Revolt flag. But the lessons he learned fighting the Ottomans meant his influence would carry well into the 20th century as he waged guerrilla campaigns against other powers.



SKANDERBEG **ALBANIAN 1405-1468**

This Albanian folk hero was pursued in the Balkan mountains by the Ottomans multiple times for over 25 years - at the zenith of its power, no less. Born to a noble Orthodox family, he was sent as a devşirme tribute and continued in Ottoman service until the Battle of Niš in 1443, where he deserted with 300 men.

He used false papers from Sultan Murad II to take over Krujë and then forged an alliance with local lords called the League of Lezhë, then bolstering this with Naples and Venice. From 1443 to 1468, he repelled attempts at quelling his uprisings. During the Siege of Krujë he even repelled an army ten times in size.

Finally in 1468, he died of malaria and Venice took over the defence of Albania for a subsequent decade.





SHEIKH BEDREDDIN

TURKISH/GREEK MUSLIM MYSTIC 1359-1420

Sheikh Bedreddin's radical mysticism favoured pantheism in the vein of Ibn al 'Arabi. His insistence on unity of all things meant that all religions preach the same message, that spiritual and physical were inseparable, and even that all property should be communal. His revolt in 1416 was crushed by Bayezid Pasha, but had long-lasting ideological and political consequences. The Ottomans were forced away from a 'Muslim' identity and more towards an 'Ottoman' identity that leaned towards assimilating minorities. His teachings lived on through Sufi orders like the Bektashis, and he was championed by modern Leftists.



KABAKÇI MUSTAFA

TURKISH/ALBANIAN 1770-1808

Little is known about his early life, but in 1807 Mustafa was an officer of a Yamak unit defending the Bosphorus against Cossack pirates. As Sultan Selim III began his Nizām-ı Cedid reforms reorganising forces according to French standards, they revolted and killed a minister over new style uniforms. Kabakçı Mustafa reached Constantinople and was supported by Janissaries. They imprisoned the Sultan and someone assassinated him, then they installed his cousin Mustafa IV.

ISMAIL ENVER PASHA

TURKISH/ALBANIAN 1881-1922

The most powerful man in the Empire's final days, Enver Pasha was part of the Committee of Union and Progress's 'Three Pashas' triumvirate. Aligned with the Young Turks, they won 1908 parliamentary majority, and staged a 1913 coup. Initially modernist reform-minded, wishing to restore the Empire's former glory, their policies of Turkicisation under the auspices of 'Ottomanism', ultimately lead to the 1915 Armenian Genocide. As Minister of War, he allied with Germany in WWI.



HAMPARTSUM BOYAJIAN

ARMENIAN 1860-1915

As other Ottoman minorities gained independence, Armenians remained loyal. However, as nationalist sentiments stirred in the 1890s, after support for Russia in the Russo-Turkish War, Ottoman soldiers and Kurdish militia were sent to quell unrest in Eastern Anatolia. In Sasun in 1894, Boyajian led fedayi resisting them. He was captured, tortured, exiled to Libya, then returned and was elected to parliament representing Adana. Ottoman authorities hung him in 1915.



Although ethnically Albanian, Muhammad 'Ali Pasha would oversee a sort of literary, artistic, and economic renaissance in Egypt, including its world famous cotton industry.

MUHAMMAD 'ALI PASHA

ALBANIAN - BEKTASHI 1769-1849

Muhammad 'Ali Pasha, the Khedive of Egypt, saw himself as the successor to the decaying Ottoman Empire, rather than its vassal.

By 1805, he and a contingent of Albanian mercenaries outmanoeuvred all rivals in a three-way civil war ensuing from Napoleon's withdrawal from Egypt.

In 1831, he launched an outright war with Sultan Mahmud II, took Ottoman Syria, and temporarily captured parts of southern Anatolia itself by 1833 - declaring independence in 1839. In 1840, the Sultan sent troops to crush him, but instead 'Ali came out on top.

His dynasty continued until the 1953 coup d'état by Gamal Abdel Nasser.

KARADORDE

SERBIAN - EASTERN ORTHODOX 1768-1817

Following the 1801 assassination of Vizier Mustafa Pasha in Belgrade and the 1804 massacre of local Serbian rulers by renegade Janissaries, compatriots elected Karadorde (Black George) to lead their uprising. Named for his infamous fiery temper, among friend and foe alike, he succeeded initially. Eventually, Russia cut aid. In 1812, the Ottomans brutally crushed the uncoordinated rebels, built a tower of rebel skulls, and Karadorde's head was eventually impaled for a week-long display in Constantinople.

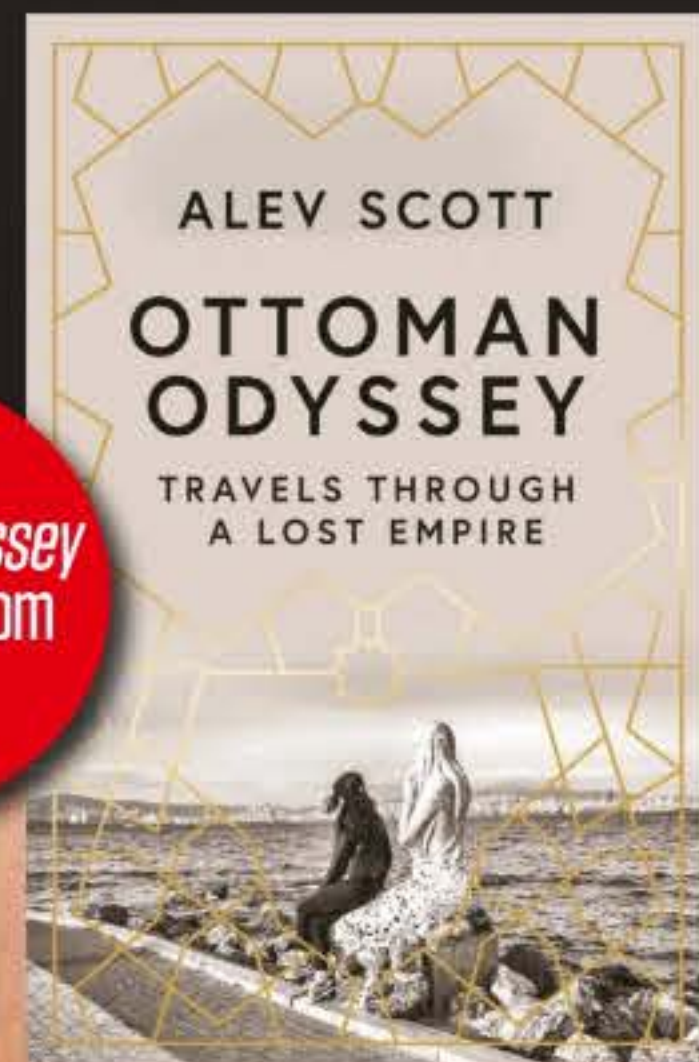


Q&A With...

ALEV SCOTT

THE AUTHOR AND
JOURNALIST TALKS US
THROUGH HER MODERN
JOURNEY AROUND THE
OTTOMAN EMPIRE'S
FORMER REALMS

Ottoman Odyssey
is out now from
Riverrun



Alev Scott is of Turkish and British decent, raised and studying in the UK before working as a journalist in Turkey where she chronicled the changing political climate and attempted military coup in 2016. She has since been exiled by the Erdoğan regime and currently cannot return to her adopted home.

Q. YOUR BOOK *OTTOMAN ODYSSEY* CHRONICLES A JOURNEY AROUND THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE'S FORMER LANDS. WHEN YOU STARTED THIS BOOK, WHAT WERE YOU HOPING TO FIND?

A. I was looking for social and cultural traces of the Empire but to be honest I wanted to keep an open mind about what I would find - these things are difficult to predict or even to define until you've really talked to people and understood local conceptions of history. I went through 12 countries, so it was quite a journey.

Q. WERE THERE MANY PLACES WHERE THE INFLUENCE OF THE OTTOMANS WAS CLEARLY STILL FELT VERY STRONGLY?

A. I would say the Balkans was the most striking area in terms of Ottoman influence - both overt (the current Turkish government's restoration and promotion of important Ottoman edifices, for example) and less overt - political tensions simmering over a hundred years since the collapse of the Empire in this area. Palestine and more obvious places like Cyprus were also interesting in terms of lingering linguistic ties.



Remnants of the Ottomans can still be found in the lands where its influence was once felt, with some wonderful structures still standing



Q. WHILE MANY EMPIRES THROUGH HISTORY TENDED TO WANT TO IMPOSE HOMOGENEITY, THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IS KNOWN FOR REMAINING RATHER DIVERSE. DID YOU FIND THAT TO BE TRUE AS YOU EXPLORED?

A. I did - the territories of the Empire were and are still hugely diverse, and the Ottomans for the most part allowed local religions to be practiced instead of imposing Islam. However local perceptions of the nature of this diversity vary widely, some citizens of former territories think of the Empire as tolerant, others less so.

Q. WHAT ELEMENTS OF THE EMPIRE, IF ANY, DID YOU FIND THAT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE DIFFERENT REGIONS?

A. Until the end of the empire, a principle of tolerance coupled with a demand for strict obedience to the Sultan. Architectural style, in many places. And of course elements of language that remain today.

Q. HOW MUCH OF A CONNECTION DID YOU FIND BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES YOU VISITED AND TURKEY?

A. I would say mainly in traces of language and elements of culture like cuisine - most strongly represented in Greece and much of the Levant.

Q. DID YOU FIND THAT CONTEMPORARY RELATIONS WITH TURKEY WERE AFFECTED MUCH BY FEELINGS ABOUT THE EMPIRE?

A. To an extent, yes - this is something that runs rather on religious grounds, for example the

Muslims in the Balkans (in Bosnia and Kosovo, primarily) identify strongly with both Turkey and their Ottoman heritage.

Q. DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT THE OTTOMANS DURING YOUR TRAVELS THAT REALLY SURPRISED YOU?

A. The "milk siblings" of Jerusalem really surprised me - the Muslim and Jewish babies who were breastfed by women of the other religion in the late 19th and early 20th century when the region was still under Ottoman control, as a matter of convenience between neighbouring families. It was a practice that stood as a symbol of acceptance and friendship between the two religions - something that would be astonishing today.

Q. THE BOOK IS ALSO A CHRONICLE OF THE PEOPLE YOU MET AND THEIR STORIES. DID YOU FIND IN THEM SOME SENSE OF A SHARED HERITAGE?

A. Absolutely. All the elements I've mentioned - linguistic and cultural ties. Personally, as someone with Turkish Cypriot heritage, I found affinity with some people I did not expect to and that was probably the greatest gift of researching this book.

Q. AFTER FINISHING THE BOOK, DID YOU FIND THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE EMPIRE HAD CHANGED AT ALL?

A. Yes. I had known before I set out that empire is not just about asserting power, about the political corralling of other people - but I only knew it rationally. I actually saw what that meant in real terms when I was travelling and talking to people, and understanding the past through their eyes.

"IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY MUSLIM AND JEWISH BABIES WERE BREASTFED BY WOMEN OF THE OTHER RELIGION"

Places to Explore OTTOMAN MOSQUES

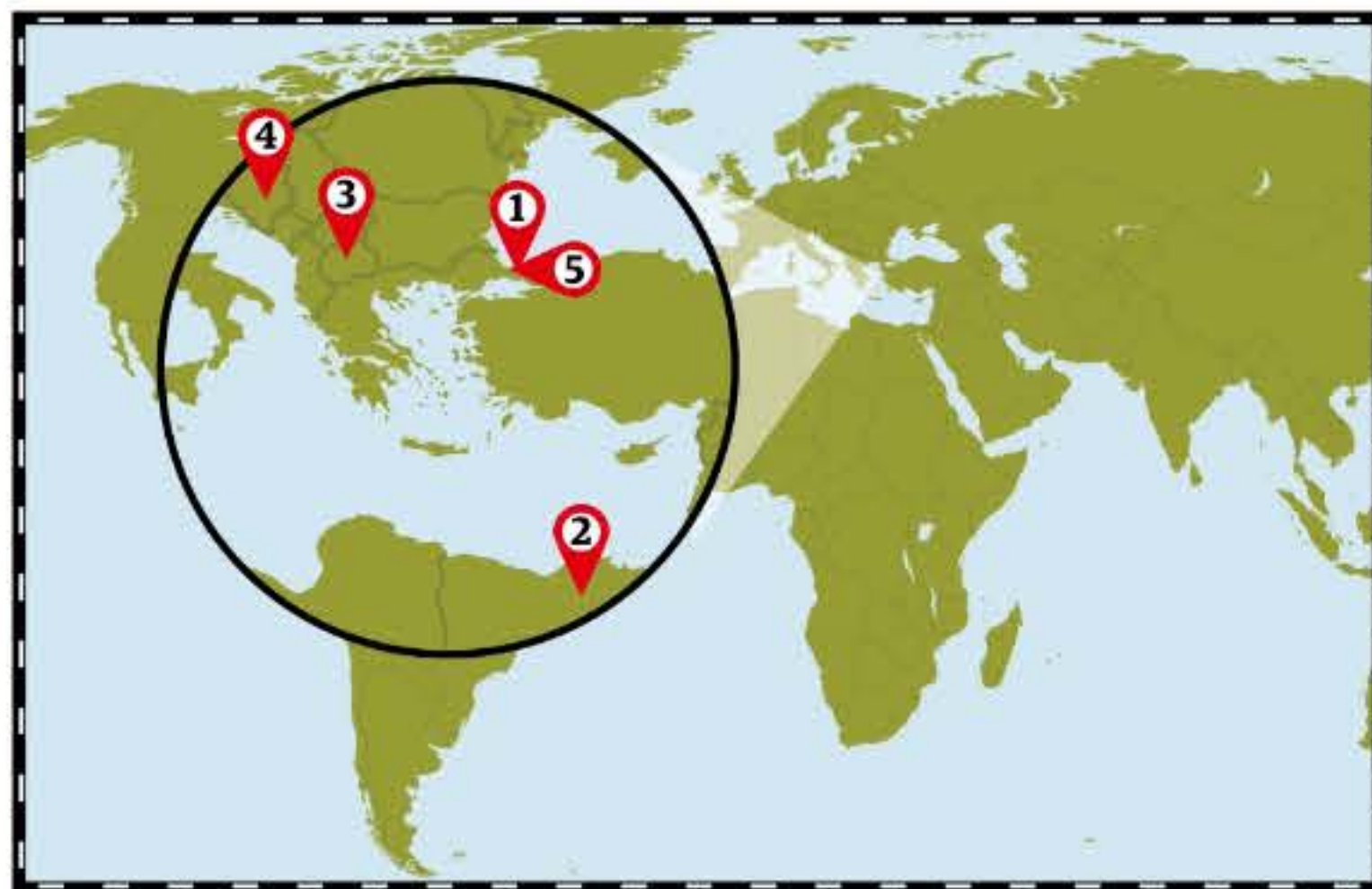
Visit these feats of supreme architecture in the Islamic world

1 BLUE MOSQUE **ISTANBUL**

Perhaps one of Istanbul's most famous buildings, the Blue Mosque, also known as the Sultan Ahmed Mosque after its imperial creator, is nothing short of stunning. Its minarets and ripple of domes create a unique silhouette on the Istanbul skyline, making the mosque able to hold its own in beauty next to its neighbour Hagia Sophia.

Built under the orders of Sultan Ahmed I, who reigned the Ottoman Empire from 1603 to 1617 and is buried there, this mosque was certainly a statement. Architect Sedefkâr Mehmet Ağa's design plays host to six minarets - more than any other mosque at the time - and the courtyard was the biggest in any mosque throughout the empire. However, none of this is what it's famous for today. The mosque's interior is decorated with tens of thousands of blue İznik tiles, giving the building its nickname, and 260 windows let in natural light that allows you to see the inside in all its glory.

The Blue Mosque is open every day, but admission is not allowed during prayer hours or until 2.30pm on Fridays. Entrance is free. www.sultanahmetcamii.org



2 MOSQUE OF MUHAMMAD ALI **CAIRO**

Although not built by a sultan, the Mosque of Muhammad Ali in Egypt's capital is no less Ottoman. While Muhammad Ali, an Ottoman commander who became viceroy of Egypt, was trying to act independently of Istanbul in the mid 19th century, his architectural style actually ended up being very similar.

The building took around 18 years to be completed, and it's easy to see why - it's massive. The interior of the mosque measures a staggering 41 metres square, the spaciousness reminiscent of its counterparts back in Istanbul. What is most impressive, however, is the main dome, which reaches 52 metres into the sky, with a diameter no less than 21 metres. That certainly isn't the only dome this mosque boasts, though, with four half-domes and four further smaller domes. These are among the minarets that rise up over 80 metres on bases that are only three metres wide. This mosque also has a courtyard, which houses small arcades sheltered by their own domes.

Inside the mosque is just as grand as outside, with vibrant golds and reds oozing from every corner. Egyptians have taken a lot of pride in this building since its creation in 1830-48, and you certainly can't fault their taste.

The Mosque of Muhammad Ali is open daily from 9am to 5pm, and entry is \$10

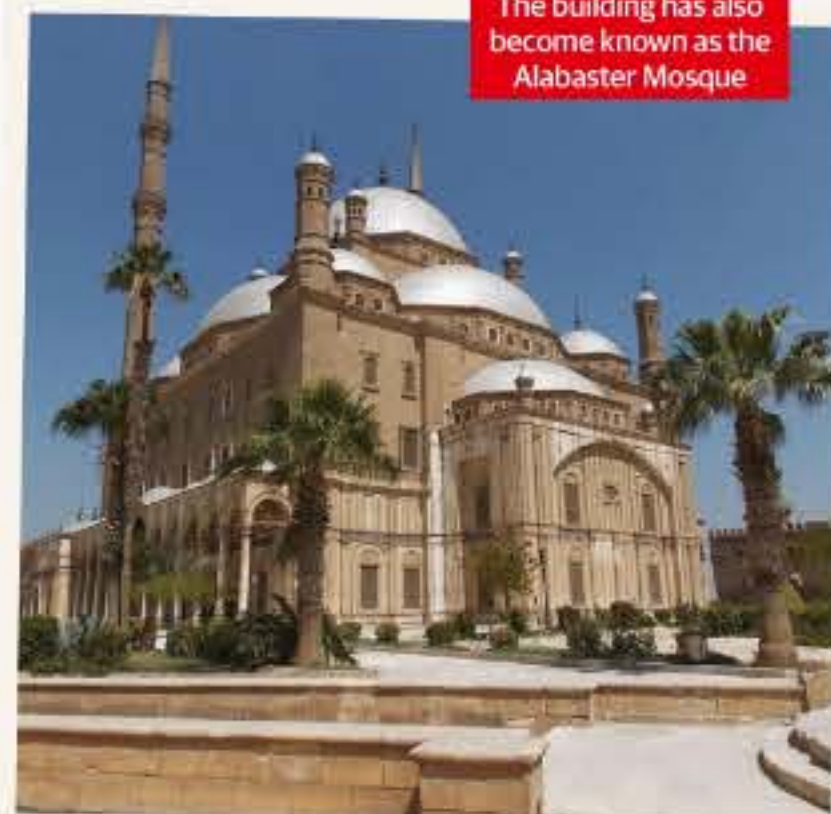
With six minarets and several domes, this mosque is nothing less than stunning to look at



It's the blue tiles inside the mosque that give it its nickname



The building has also become known as the Alabaster Mosque





Simple and understated, this is a classic example of early Ottoman architecture



This mosque is easily accessible in Macedonia's capital

3 MUSTAFA PASHA MOSQUE



Nestled between Kale Fortress and the Museum of Macedonia in central Skopje, it's almost impossible to miss the Mustafa Pasha Mosque thanks to its one minaret, which shoots 47 metres into the sky like an arrow. However, the complex is smaller than it once was - while it used to house a mosque, soup kitchen, school, caravanserai and tomb, only the mosque and tomb remain today.

Building ended in 1492 and we know from an inscription above the building's entrance that it was commissioned by Mustafa Pasha, a vizier during the reigns of Bayezid II and Selim I. The tomb actually belongs to Mustafa's daughter Umi. The building itself is a typical piece of

early Ottoman architecture with a square base covered by a dome that rests on decorated pillars. Three more small domes shelter the porch of white marble. Inside is relatively plain, with white walls and blue detailing around the windows - it doesn't sound like much, but the way the natural light fills the room is astounding, creating an aura of openness for those who come to this historical temple to pray.

Open all day except for prayer time, and entry is free. There is no website, but information about travelling in Macedonia can be found at www.exploringmacedonia.com.

4 GAZI HUSREV-BEG MOSQUE



The entrance to the mosque is a marbled wonder

Named after the Ottoman governor of Bosnia who ordered its building, the Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque in Bosnia and Herzegovina's capital is seen as one of the most important Ottoman architectural monuments in the country today. Looking impressive from afar, as you get close you are confronted with marble pillars that create a colonnade before reaching the main entrance, which is decorated with stunning arabesques and gilding. Above the door sits a gold-plated inscription that sings the benefactor's praises: "The mosque of the good people Husrev-bey buildeth in the name of God (as) a home for those who prostrate themselves. He is the destroyer of foe, helper of the champions of faith, Propagator of benefaction, helper of the pious."

It's hard not to be disappointed when you finally step inside. The first thing you'll notice is the space, and that the decoration isn't as elaborate as many other Ottoman mosques. However, there is some exquisite detail on the mihrab, or pulpit, and rugs that have been gifted litter the floor. Whether you're going to pray or visit, there's plenty to marvel at in a building where calls to prayer have been repeated daily since 1531.

The mosque is open Sunday-Saturday 9am-7pm, although it does close for prayers. Tickets cost 2KM (about 89p)



Süleymaniye Mosque can be seen towering over Istanbul from the Bosphorus

5 SÜLEYMANIYE MOSQUE



Rest assured, the grandeur of this stunning mosque befits the sultan who commissioned it. Suleiman the Magnificent ordered it to be built in 1550 on the summit of Istanbul's tallest hill - where the first Ottoman palace had sat before - and work finished seven years later. Visible from all around, there's no missing this architectural marvel.

Designed by Mimar Sinan, one of the Ottoman Empire's foremost architects, the complex consists of a fountain, a garden complete with views of the Bosphorus and a school, as well as the main mosque itself. This boasts four minarets that supposedly represent Suleiman being the fourth of the Osmanlı sultans, and the ten balconies on them hint at his position as the tenth sultan of the empire. The courtyard you cross through to reach the mosque itself is a rectangular affair with marble paving slabs - after all, no expense was spared. In the centre you'll find a fountain carved with exquisite detail, and also the tombs of Suleiman and his wife Roxelana.

Inside the mosque is astounding. The big, open space is full of light and the ceiling seems to soar into the heavens, with the intricately decorated domes reaching higher still. Your breath will be taken away as soon as you step foot inside.

The mosque is open every day, 9-11.15am, 12.45-2.15pm and 3.15-4.45pm. However, on Fridays it is also closed between 10.30am and 1.45pm. Entrance is free, but donations are welcomed. You will be asked to remove your shoes, so have socks with you!



Historical Treasures

TOPKAPI DAGGER

DIPLOMACY ON A KNIFE'S EDGE THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1747

The Topkapi dagger was a gift intended for Iranian ruler Nadir Shah from Ottoman Sultan Mahmud I in 1747. The Ottoman-Persian War raged for three years between

1743 and 1746 until a peace treaty, the Treaty of Kerden, was signed in September 1746. To seal it, Nadir sent expensive gifts, such as Gulf pearls, to Istanbul for Mahmud as a peace offering.

In return, Mahmud commissioned a series of ornate gifts and arranged an embassy to deliver them to the Persian border. Adorned with priceless emeralds, the Topkapi dagger is a perfect example of the clever tactics that surrounded gift giving. It was well known that Nadir had a penchant for precious jewels, in particular emeralds from the Mughal Empire, and he even took the Koh-i-Noor diamond following his invasion of Delhi, India, in 1739.

However, Nadir never got to set his eyes on the emerald dagger. As he raised taxes time and time again to fund his military campaigns, Nadir had been faced with a number of revolts that had forced him to seek peace with the Ottomans

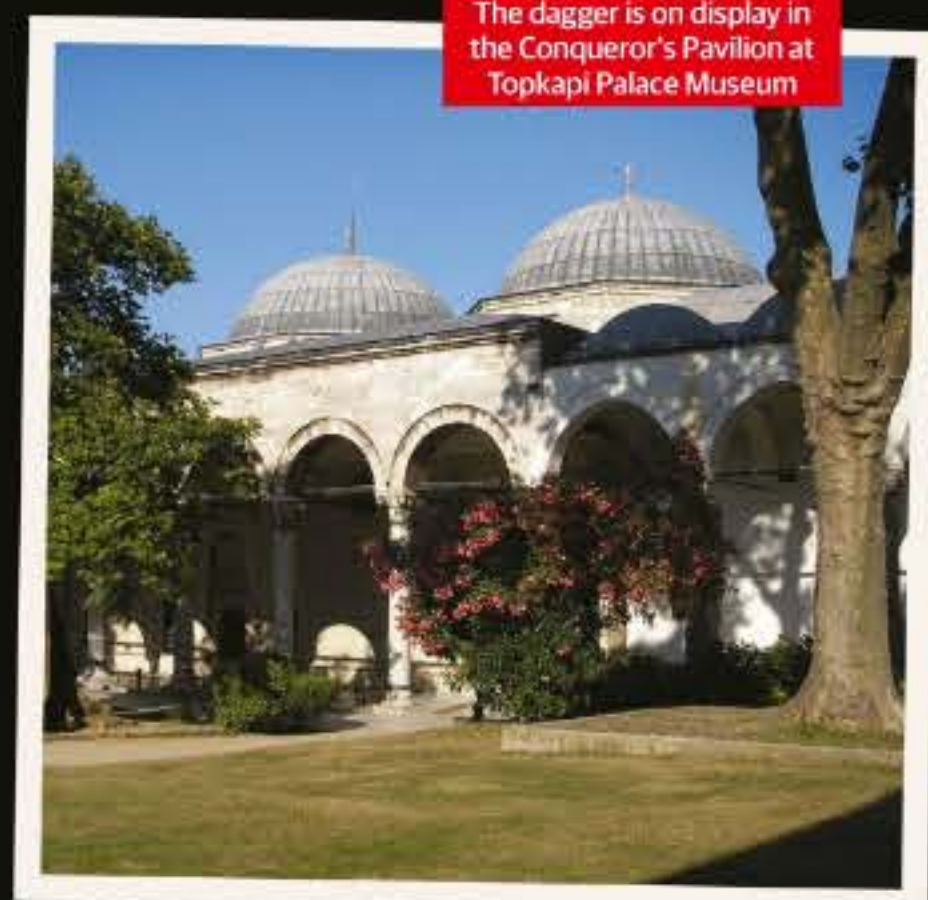
in the first place. Hated for his increasing cruelty and for leading the economy to ruin, Nadir was assassinated in his bed in June 1747 at the hands of his own men.

“PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE DAGGER ROSE THANKS TO THE 1964 FILM TOPKAPI”

When Mahmud's embassy arrived at the border to discover that Nadir had been assassinated, they promptly returned home with the dagger and the rest of the gifts. The dagger was subsequently placed in the royal treasury at the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, which was eventually converted into a museum in 1924 following the end of the Ottoman Empire the previous year.

The royal treasury forms one of the main collections at the museum and the dagger remains on display to this day. Public interest in the dagger rose thanks to the 1964 film *Topkapi*, which depicts a fictional plot to steal it

from the museum. Actor Peter Ustinov won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in the film and the popularity of the dagger increased - it is now considered to be one of the museum's star attractions.



The dagger is on display in the Conqueror's Pavilion at Topkapi Palace Museum

DECADENT DECORATION

The handle of the dagger is made from gold and adorned with three emeralds, two pear-shaped ones and a cushion cut one in the middle. The sheath is also made from gold and is decorated with diamonds, mother-of-pearl and painted enamel.

SHOWING OFF

Emeralds were frequently used in jewelled diplomatic gifts such as the Topkapi dagger because they were considered to be a symbol of power, just like many other jewels - the more powerful you were, the more extravagant gifts you could give.

SACRED SYMBOLISM

Emeralds were valued highly not only because they were considered to be exotic, but according to Islamic tradition, green is the colour of Paradise. As a result, it was traditionally only worn by the descendants of the Prophet Mohammed.

HIDDEN TREASURE

At the top of the dagger's handle there is an octagonal emerald framed with diamonds, which acts as a cover. When lifted, it actually reveals a small, gold watch hiding underneath, which was made in London.

Thanks to its large emeralds, the Topkapi dagger is famously known as the 'Emerald Dagger'.















CROMWELL TANK

MODEL MILITARY VEHICLES TREMENDOUS TANKS



CHALLENGER TANK SPECIFICATIONS

 4	 m 11.5	 m 2.49
 m 4.2	 kg 62.5T	 km/h 59
 km 450	 hp 1200	 mm 120
 Perkins CV-12 V12 Diesel 26 litre		

Dominating the battlefield for 100 years, the tank was initially designed to break the stalemate of trench warfare and provide infantry units with a mobile, armoured base of fire that would give them a significant tactical advantage. Since that time, the tank has developed into an essential component of any integrated military force, whilst always challenging designers to find new ways of combining effective fire-power with greater speed and mobility – in the world of tank warfare, bigger is not always better.

First introduced by the British during the Battle of the Somme on 15 September 1916, the tank was developed under the utmost secrecy for fear of alerting the Germans to these decisive new weapons. Originally known as

Landships, workers involved in their production were told that the vehicles were nothing more than mobile water tanks for use in the desert war. As military planners looked for a suitable code word for the new machines, the word tank was adopted.

As the tank developed, it would become a crucial component of German Blitzkrieg during WWII, as they perfected the use of fast moving armoured vehicles to back up infantry assaults, following devastating aerial bombardment. Today's tanks can trace their lineage back to the first British Mark I machines of the Somme Offensive and will still be found at the spearhead of any ground based military operation.

Airfix kits allow you to recreate hundreds of different iconic aircraft, tank and car scale models in the comfort of your own home. Airfix produce a wide variety of tanks and military vehicles in a variety of different scales and schemes. Within the Airfix range, alongside the classic kits, there is a Cromwell MkIV Tank Starter Set which contains glue, paintbrush and 4 acrylic paints, everything you need to create a stunning 1:76 scale model.

The Battlefront Gift Set contains everything you need to build a complete diorama, including a Sherman and Tiger Tank, British and German infantry and a diorama base. Along with all the paint, glues and brushes required.

A55109 CROMWELL MkIV TANK STARTER SET 1:76



A01303 SHERMAN M4A2 TANK 1:76



A50009 BATTLEFRONT GIFT SET 1:76



The True Tudor Queen



◆ THE TRUE TUDOR QUEEN ◆

CATHERINE *of* ARAGON

From abandoned wife to battlefield conqueror: uncover
the real story of England's Spanish rose

Written by Dr Nicola Tallis



In 1488 England began negotiations of the utmost importance with one of the two great European superpowers: Spain. The aim was to treat for a marriage between Henry VII's son, Prince Arthur - heir to the newly established Tudor dynasty - and the Spanish Infanta, Catherine. Arthur was yet to reach his second birthday, and at two and a half, Catherine was only slightly older. Yet negotiations such as these were not unusual, and Catherine would never remember a time when England had not been a part of her future. She would be raised with the belief that it was her destiny to become queen of England.

Born in December 1485 and the youngest of four surviving daughters of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, from the outset Catherine's upbringing was set to be

extraordinary. Her parents were the most powerful couple in 15th century Europe, and, unusually, shared joint sovereign power. This was because Catherine's mother Isabella was queen of Castile in her own right, but her marriage to Ferdinand had united her kingdom with that of Aragon. From the beginning therefore, through the example of her mother - to whom Catherine was often compared - she was no stranger to the concept of female rule: it was one that would impact upon her deeply.

By the time of Catherine's birth, her parents had long been engaged in war against the Muslims, and by 1488 the kingdom of Granada remained the only Spanish city still under Muslim control. During her childhood, Catherine and her siblings frequently travelled with their parents as they fought zealously to conquer

Granada. In so doing Catherine gleaned some valuable lessons from her mother about what it meant to be a queen, for Isabella herself was fully immersed in the campaign. This was to be the great enterprise of the Spanish sovereigns' reign, and Catherine was present when, on 2 January 1492, the city finally surrendered. It was a triumphant moment, and Catherine was there to witness the height of her parents' greatness.

Though Isabella's sovereignty meant that she had little time to spend with her children, she took a great interest in their welfare. The humanist Erasmus would later state that Catherine was 'imbued with learning, by the care of her illustrious mother', for Isabella was conscious of the importance of her daughters' education, and undoubtedly wished to prepare them for their future roles as queen consorts.

The True Tudor Queen

Having won the hearts of the English with her wedding, Catherine's coronation sealed her bond with the people



Baynard's Castle was gifted to Catherine by Prince Henry when they married



Catherine's tutor was Alessandro Geraldini, an Italian scholar who later accompanied her to England, and her curriculum was varied. Her lessons included Latin, and from her childhood Catherine also had a strong devotion to the Catholic Church. Erasmus described her as being 'as religious and virtuous as words can express', which perhaps derived from her mother, who was renowned for her piety. This faith would remain with Catherine for the rest of her life - a constant when all else seemed to be in turmoil.

Royal children were useful tools for negotiation in the European marriage market, and through the marriages of Catherine's siblings her parents had created alliances with Portugal and the Holy Roman Empire. The negotiations for Catherine's marriage to Prince Arthur, however, were drawn out across several years, and it was not until August 1497 that the youngsters were formally betrothed. Yet it would be several more years before Catherine left Spain for her new land, and in the meantime she began a correspondence with Arthur. He was clearly eager to meet his new bride, for his only surviving letter to Catherine refers to her as his 'dearest spouse', and conveys his 'earnest desire' to see her. Finally, in 1501, 15-year-old Catherine was able to bid farewell to her parents as she began her journey to her new land. Though mother and daughter had been parted, Isabella continued to play a role in Catherine's life, and while she lived she would champion her interests ceaselessly. In October Catherine arrived in England with an entourage of Spanish

"She had no idea of where her future lay, for all seemed clouded in gloom"

attendants: after many years, her wedding day was almost upon her.

On 14 November Catherine and Arthur were married in a magnificent ceremony at Old St Paul's Cathedral. Henry VII had gone to an extraordinary level of expense in order to ensure that the celebrations were both exceptionally lavish and conducted on a huge scale, and the Londoners celebrated the marriage with enthusiasm. Thomas More claimed that Catherine "thrilled the hearts of everyone", and that everywhere she "receives the highest of praises". Shortly after the wedding, in the depths of winter, Catherine - now Princess of Wales - accompanied her husband to Ludlow Castle on the Welsh Marches. It was here that Arthur was to learn the art of government, with Catherine by his side. However, in March 1502 the couple fell sick, and though Catherine recovered, Arthur did not. On 2 April 15-year-old Arthur died, and was buried in Worcester Cathedral. His untimely death devastated his parents, and threw Catherine's future into the air.

The uncertainty seemed to be remedied quickly when it was agreed that Catherine would

marry Henry VII's only remaining son, ten-year-old Prince Henry, and in 1503 the young couple were betrothed. On 26 November 1504 however, tragedy struck when Catherine's mother, Isabella of Castile, died. In personal terms the grief that Catherine felt must have been immense, but in political terms it signalled disaster. Isabella's death meant that her husband Ferdinand was now king of Aragon only, while Catherine's elder sister, Juana, inherited their mother's kingdom of Castile. As the daughter of the king of Aragon alone, Catherine's value as a bride plummeted and no longer was she viewed as the greatest prize in the European marriage market. Henry VII's attitude towards Catherine changed, and he began considering alternative brides for his precious only son. Catherine, still in England, found herself vulnerable, and now learned some important lessons about the tumultuous nature of royal marriage negotiations.

It now seemed that there was little hope of Catherine enjoying the privileges of queenship that she had come to expect would one day be hers. Her living conditions became a stark contrast to those in which she had been raised,



Arthur Tudor originally married Catherine, but died only five months later

and she was forced to pawn some of her jewels and plate in order to maintain herself and her household. Though she complained to her father that her servants "walk about in rags", he did little to help her. She had no idea of where her future lay, for all seemed clouded in gloom. In 1507 however, Catherine was given her own unique role to play when she began acting as her father's ambassador in England. Such a role was extraordinary, and was the first occasion in European history in which a female had fulfilled such a position. This gave Catherine a valuable opportunity to learn about the art of diplomacy and foreign relations, and the news she conveyed to her father was often written in her own hand. In 1508 however, a new ambassador arrived at the English court, and thus Catherine was forced to take a back seat: she would not have long to wait until her future became clear.

The hardship and uncertainty Catherine had faced came to an end when Henry VII died on 21 April 1509. With his death Catherine's fortunes were transformed, for less than two months later, on 11 June Catherine was married to the new king, Henry VIII: she had at last fulfilled her destiny, for she was now queen of England. Twelve days later the royal couple were crowned together in a splendid double coronation at Westminster Abbey, and Catherine presided over the celebratory jousts in some of her first public appearances as queen.

Catherine was extremely popular with her adoptive people, and her household, to whom she was a kind mistress, were devoted to her.



The True Tudor Queen

Her Spanish roots remained important to her, as can be seen in her adoption of the pomegranate - a Spanish emblem - as her personal badge. She retained her love of her homeland throughout her life, and often wore clothes and jewels in the Spanish fashion. Though at 23 in 1509 she was more than five years older than her husband, who turned 18 within weeks of his accession, Catherine was still considered to be 'the most beautiful creature in the world'. The first years of her marriage to Henry were very happy, and Catherine also found her husband willing to listen to her advice. Coming from a family of strong women it was only natural that Catherine should wish to take a role in politics, and Henry's faith in her became apparent when she was made regent of England in 1513 while he went on campaign in France.

From 30 June to 21 October, Catherine ruled England on her husband's behalf, quickly demonstrating that she was more than capable of the task. With an impending threat of invasion from Scotland, Catherine could not afford to be idle. Though she was pregnant, she busied herself with the preparations, including the making of banners and badges. Having crossed the border into Northumberland, on

9 September the Scots engaged in battle with the English army. Led by the Earl of Surrey, the result of the Battle of Flodden was a resounding victory for the English - and for Catherine. Many Scots were killed, among them King James IV. In jubilation Catherine wrote to her husband of their success, informing him that "this battle hath been to your Grace and all your realm the greatest honour that could be". As a war trophy, she told Henry that she was "sending you for your banners a king's coat" - she had even considered sending him the dead King James's body, but "our Englishmen's hearts would not suffer it". The success of Flodden was to be one of the highlights of Catherine's reign, in which she perhaps saw herself emulating some of the military success her mother had once achieved.

Catherine's regency was the only occasion on which she had full authority, but there were other times when she attempted to play a role in foreign politics and diplomacy. She made no secret of her preference for England to make an alliance with her home country of Spain, as was in evidence when her nephew, Charles V, visited England in 1520 - a visit that had come about through Catherine's influence. Shortly after she accompanied her husband to France

to attend the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and though Catherine exchanged gifts with the French king and queen, it was clear that her heart lay elsewhere. Upon her return to England Catherine urged Henry to ally with Charles V, and she was delighted when in 1522 her hopes came to fruition. This was cemented by Charles's engagement to Catherine's only surviving daughter, Mary.

In other respects Catherine's role as queen was largely ceremonial. In 1517 she successfully publicly pleaded with her husband for the lives of a group of apprentice boys who were about to be executed for their participation in the Evil May Day riots, she presented prizes at tournaments, was a lover of music and patronised the musician Giles Duwes. Catherine was also fond of jewels - particularly ropes of pearls - and fine clothes, often giving away pieces as gifts. On one occasion, for example, she gave Lady Maltravers a gown of white satin. Additionally, Catherine did her best to aid scholars and universities, visiting both Oxford and Cambridge, and acting as patron of St John's College in the latter.

Catherine's scholarly interests probably stemmed from childhood, and though she

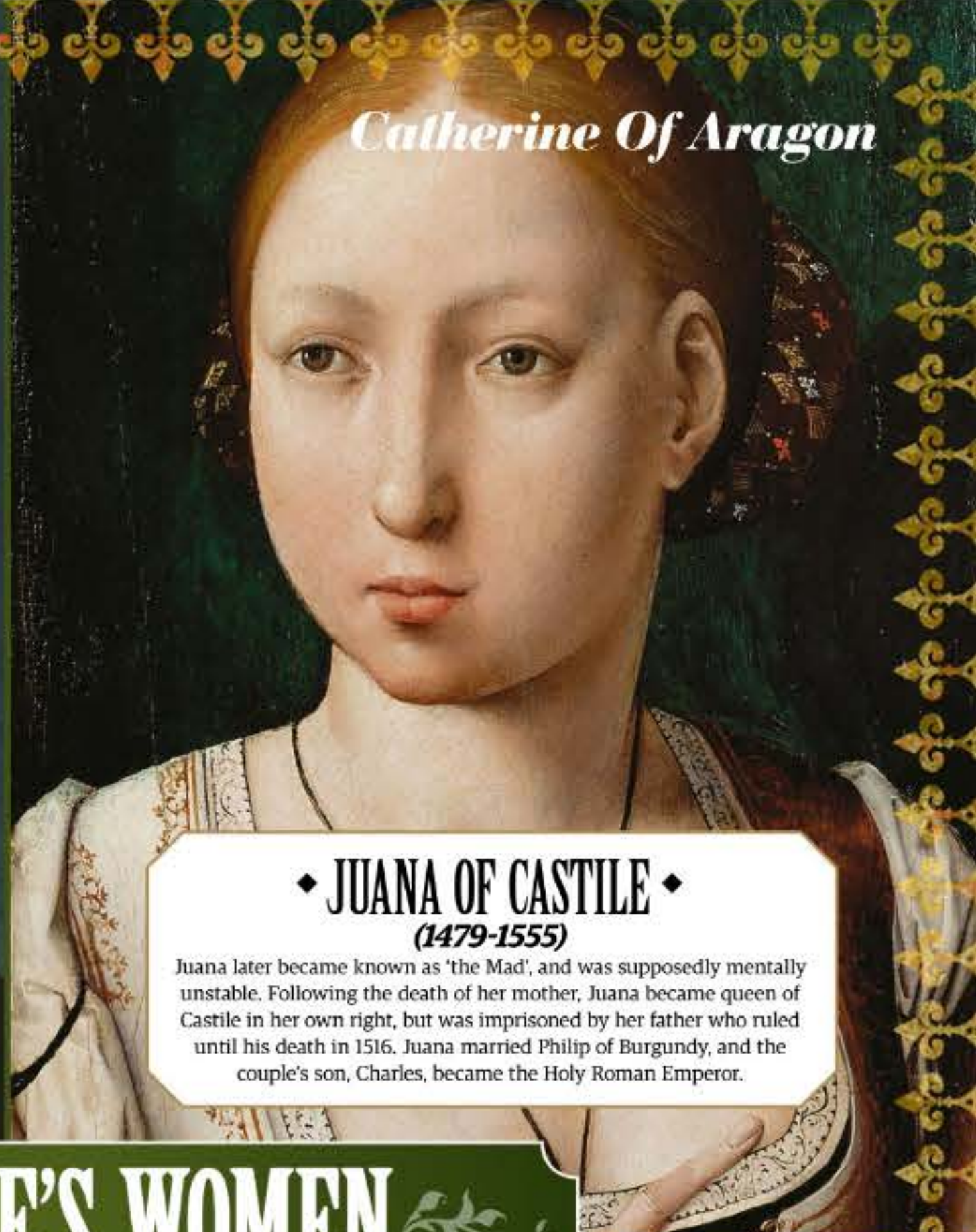
With Henry VIII in France it was Catherine who prepared England to defend itself from Scottish rebellion at the Battle of Flodden in 1513





◆ **ISABELLA OF ARAGON** ◆
(1470-1498)

Catherine's eldest sister married Alfonso, heir to the king of Portugal. It was a love match and she was devastated when he died in a riding accident. She went home to Spain, but in 1497 returned to Portugal to marry Manuel I. The couple had one child, Miguel, born in 1498, but Isabella died within an hour of the baby's birth.



Catherine Of Aragon

◆ **JUANA OF CASTILE** ◆
(1479-1555)

Juana later became known as 'the Mad', and was supposedly mentally unstable. Following the death of her mother, Juana became queen of Castile in her own right, but was imprisoned by her father who ruled until his death in 1516. Juana married Philip of Burgundy, and the couple's son, Charles, became the Holy Roman Emperor.

CATHERINE'S WOMEN
The women in Catherine's family who shared her queenly destiny



◆ **MARIA OF ARAGON** ◆
(1482-1517)

Following the death of Catherine's sister Isabella, their sister Maria was sent to Portugal as a replacement bride. Maria was married to Manuel I in 1500, and the couple sired ten children together. Maria died in 1517, and her grandson, Philip of Spain, would later marry Catherine's only daughter, Mary.



◆ **MARY I** ◆
(1516-1558)

In 1553 Catherine's only surviving child, Mary, became the first queen regnant of England. She married Philip of Spain, but despite Mary's hopes, the couple were childless. The fervently Catholic Mary became the victim of Protestant propaganda after she burned almost 300 Protestants at the stake. After a five-year reign, Mary died in 1558.

The True Tudor Queen

was not considered to be a great intellect she was certainly better educated than most Englishwomen at the time. Like her mother before her, Catherine was eager to ensure that her only surviving daughter, Princess Mary, was given an education befitting one of royal blood, and took an active role in this. Catherine inspired the humanist Juan Luis Vives, whose book, *The Education Of A Christian Woman*, was written for Mary. As Mary was her father's sole legitimate child and heir to the throne, it is quite likely that Catherine was priming her for the responsibilities of monarchy that she envisaged lay ahead. Like Prince Arthur before her, in 1525 Mary had been sent to Ludlow to continue her education, and in Catherine's mind there was no reason why Mary ought not to reign in her own right, just as her grandmother Isabella had.

Catherine's success as a queen - and a wife - is undoubted in many respects, but there was one key task that she failed to perform: she had not provided her husband with a surviving male heir. Of six pregnancies, Mary was Catherine and Henry's only surviving child, and though both parents doted on their daughter, Henry was not prepared to consider the possibility of a female heir. Moreover, Catherine's failed pregnancies had aged her considerably, and for many years several were of the opinion that she was "rather ugly than otherwise". In 1527 Catherine's marriage took a terrible downward turn, and it was one from which it would never recover. Anne Boleyn, a former member of Catherine's household, caught Henry's eye, and though he had enjoyed previous affairs, this time it was different. Having declared his intention to separate from Catherine and marry Anne instead, Catherine's relationship with Henry deteriorated rapidly. For Catherine, life would never be the same again.

Henry VIII now sought to have his marriage to Catherine annulled on the grounds that she had previously been married to his brother, Arthur. His case rested on whether or not Catherine and Arthur's marriage had been consummated, which Catherine stringently denied. As a genuinely pious woman, it is unlikely that Catherine would have lied about something that could jeopardise her immortal soul, and thus her declarations that the marriage had not been consummated are likely to be true. She was nevertheless devastated by this turn of events, and steadfastly believed her marriage to be good and valid. She would stand her ground, and later declared to her nephew and supporter the Emperor that "I am the king's lawful wife, and while I live I will say no other".

The king's 'Great Matter' as it became known, was to be a long and painful process, especially for Catherine. On the king's side, his chief advisor Cardinal Wolsey handled affairs. Wolsey was determined to secure a favourable outcome for his master, but Catherine had no one. In 1529 a legatine court met in London to determine the

ISABELLA AND FERDINAND'S EUROPEAN INFLUENCE

The joint sovereigns had connections that made them the most powerful duo in Europe

● **Marriage** ● **Conquest/Treaty**

"Catherine was eager to ensure that her only surviving daughter, Princess Mary, was given an education befitting one of royal blood"



Muhammad XII

In 1491 Granada was the only remaining Muslim city in Iberia, ruled over by Muhammad XII. Isabella and Ferdinand finally conquered the city in 1492, bringing it firmly under Christian control.



Manuel I

The Voyages of Discovery meant that like Spain, Portugal was fast becoming extremely wealthy and therefore important. Relations between the two countries were secured by Manuel I's marriage to two of Isabella and Ferdinand's daughters: Isabella, and later Maria.



Henry VII

Henry VII was keen to ally with the Spanish monarchs. Part of the negotiations for Catherine of Aragon's marriage to his son Prince Arthur, culminating in the Treaty of Medina del Campo in 1489, resulted in trade links between the two countries. After Arthur's death Catherine married his brother Henry to maintain that alliance.



Louis XII of France

After years battling with Charles VIII of France over who should be in control of Italy, known as the Italian Wars, Ferdinand II signed a treaty with Louis XII to divide up the southern half of the country in 1501 with the most southern regions of Campania and Abruzzi controlled by Castile. However, the peace didn't last long as Ferdinand's general Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba took back Naples in 1504.



Maximilian I

Maximilian was one of the most powerful rulers in Europe, with domains in Germany, Austria and Burgundy. He allied with Isabella and Ferdinand by marrying his son, Philip, to their daughter, Juana. Maximilian's daughter, Margaret, was also married to the couple's short-lived son, John.





CARDINAL WOLSEY: FRIEND OR FOE?

Was Wolsey the true villain of the Great Matter?

Wolsey's role in the Great Matter has been controversial, and it remains difficult to pinpoint his exact feelings on Catherine's divorce. On a personal level he had little reason to bear Catherine a grudge, for she had never interfered with Wolsey's political policies. Indeed, if Wolsey's servant George Cavendish is to be believed, when Henry first informed him of his desire to separate from Catherine, Wolsey begged him on his knees to

abandon the idea. However, he was fully aware that his whole future depended on securing Henry a favourable outcome. Moreover, Wolsey was the king's man through and through, and his loyalty to Henry was always his foremost concern. In fact, far from being Catherine's enemy, Wolsey stood to lose more if Anne Boleyn became queen, for she left him in little doubt of her hostility. Wolsey referred to Anne as 'the night crow' for her ability to influence

the king, and she in turn made it clear that she held him personally responsible for slowing down proceedings, and was convinced that his attempts to secure an annulment were only half-hearted. As for Catherine, though Wolsey was no foe to her he was no friend either: his instincts were for self-preservation, which ensured that he did the king's bidding. The outcome was disastrous not only for Catherine, but for Wolsey too.

Catherine Of Aragon



It's been said that Catherine got on her knees before Henry to end her trial



Catherine repeated often that she only accepted God's judgement in her case

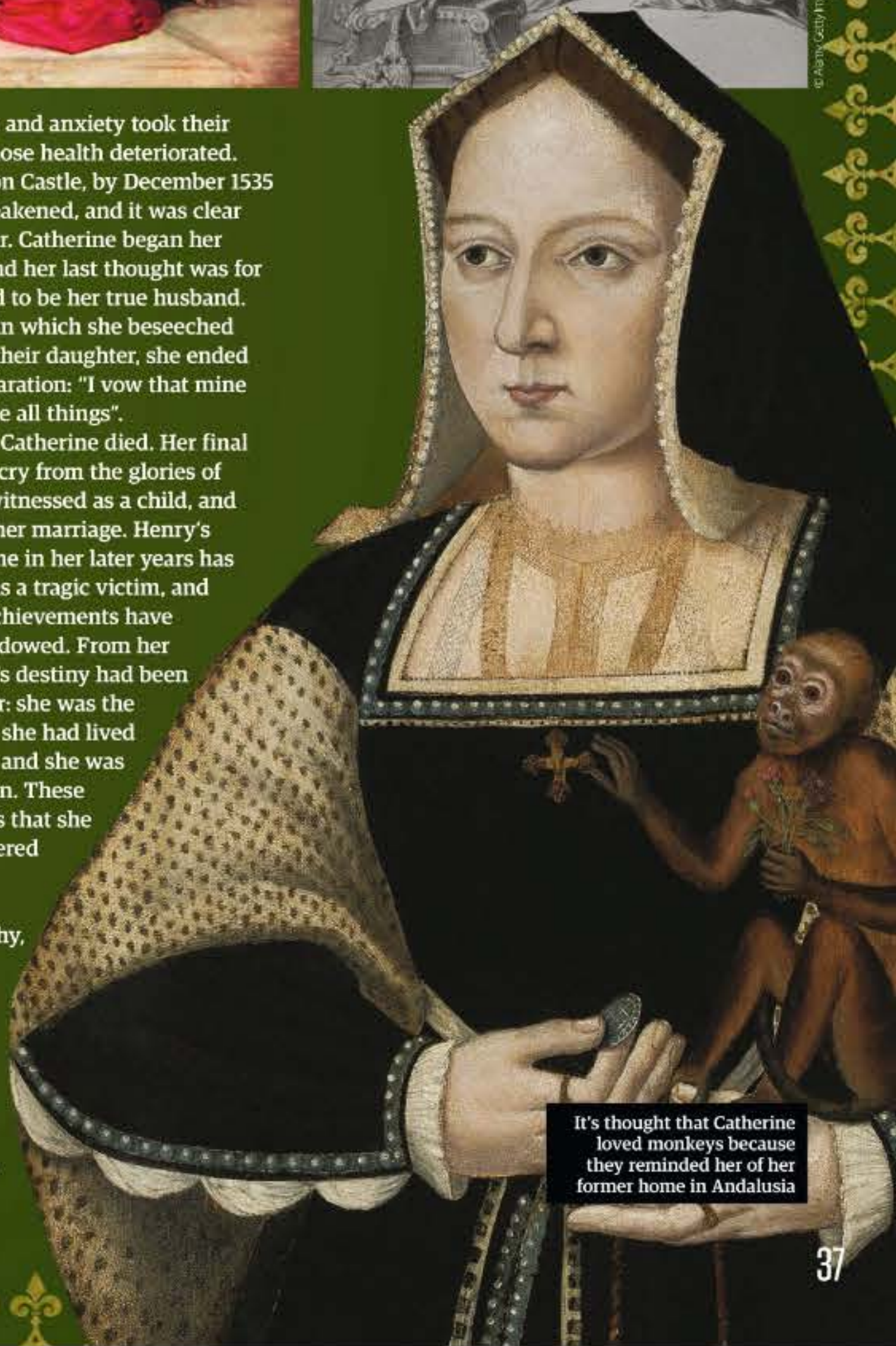
validity of the royal marriage. Catherine was called upon to speak, but instead she appealed directly to her husband, asking him to "spare me the extremity of this court". If he would not, Catherine steadfastly declared that "to God I commit my cause". To Henry's rage the case was adjourned to Rome, and proceedings dragged on. This was disastrous for Wolsey, who swiftly fell from favour for his failure to secure the annulment. He died on his way to London - and probable death - in 1530.

Catherine's plight earned her the sympathy of many of those at court, including her sister-in-law, Mary, Duchess of Suffolk. She also retained the love and admiration of the English people, serving as a testimony to her success as queen and regent. Yet this was not enough, and the king's desire to marry Anne Boleyn remained stronger than ever. Catherine, however, continued to stand firm in her belief that she was Henry's true wife, and refused to comply with her husband's demands that she renounce their marriage. This did nothing to improve relations between Catherine and Henry, and in 1531 Catherine was banished from court permanently: she would never see her husband or her daughter again.

The remaining years of Catherine's life were spent moving between a series of damp and uncomfortable houses that were a far cry from the luxurious palaces she had enjoyed during her reign. On 23 May 1533 Archbishop Thomas Cranmer declared her marriage to Henry to be null and void, but it was a judgement that Catherine refused to accept: for the rest of her life she would insist on being addressed as queen, and refused to answer to anyone who called her otherwise.

The years of stress and anxiety took their toll on Catherine, whose health deteriorated. Residing at Kimbolton Castle, by December 1535 she was seriously weakened, and it was clear that the end was near. Catherine began her final preparations, and her last thought was for the man she believed to be her true husband. Writing him a letter in which she beseeched Henry to be kind to their daughter, she ended with a touching declaration: "I vow that mine eyes desire you above all things".

On 7 January 1536 Catherine died. Her final years had been a far cry from the glories of queenship she had witnessed as a child, and experienced during her marriage. Henry's treatment of Catherine in her later years has led to her portrayal as a tragic victim, and her earlier life and achievements have been largely overshadowed. From her childhood Catherine's destiny had been firmly instilled in her: she was the daughter of a queen, she had lived and died as a queen, and she was the mother of a queen. These are the achievements that she ought to be remembered for, and though her plight is ultimately deserving of sympathy, her conduct is very much worthy of admiration as well. Moreover, as one of her contemporaries observed, Catherine was "more beloved than any queen who ever reigned".



It's thought that Catherine loved monkeys because they reminded her of her former home in Andalusia

“To the end
she appears to
have remained
devoted to
Henry and to
the people of
England”





CATHERINE'S FINAL RESTING PLACE



We pay a visit to Peterborough's 'Katharine of Aragon' Festival to reflect on the queen's final days and her lasting legacy

Written by Jonathan Gordon

Even before the Great Matter was resolved and Henry VIII got his wish for his marriage to Catherine of Aragon to be dissolved, the Spanish princess was already exiled from court and from her daughter. From 1531 to her death in 1536, she moved from castle to castle, estate to estate, watching her household diminish with each relocation as Henry sought to pressure her into accepting his wishes.

Finally she would see out the last of her days in Kimbolton Castle in Huntingdon and having seen her marriage annulled, her health declined rapidly before she passed away only two and a half years later in January 1536, aged 50. Despite her last wishes Henry had Catherine buried in Peterborough Abbey (which was later made into Peterborough Cathedral shortly after Henry VIII began dissolving monasteries) less than 30 miles north of Kimbolton and there she lays still.

To the end she appears to have remained devoted to Henry and to the people of England. She refused to give up her title as queen and as Henry's schism began tearing England from the Vatican, many people looked to her as the one consistent link to the only faith they had ever known. It is not surprising then that to this day Catherine of Aragon is celebrated and that Peterborough honours her life annually on the last weekend of January, opening up the cathedral to a Catholic mass in the morning, followed by a commemoration service, a laying of wreaths of Catherine's tomb by dignitaries of the city and from Spain, and then a series of historical events such as tours of the city and talks at the local museum.

"Loads of people want to come and see her tomb. You see the pomegranates left and they're left all year round; it's not just for the special occasions. There are people who do practicality

A Queen At Rest

NEVER FORGOTTEN

Very Revd Chris Dalliston, Dean of Peterborough, reflects on Catherine's enduring legacy and popularity



In your experience of the 'Katharine of Aragon' Festival, what can you tell us about her popularity?
This is just my second year here and it's clear that Catherine has a very significant following and holds a place in the affections of many people. It's not just at the Festival - throughout the year people lay her emblem, pomegranates, at the tomb as a mark of deep affection and respect.

What do you think it is about Catherine that continues to make her such a popular figure?
There's an enduring fascination about the Tudors - a tempestuous, colourful and defining period in our nation's history and of course Henry's six wives have all the elements of a great story: power, politics, passion and tragedy. Catherine herself represents to a degree the wronged wife who remained utterly loyal to Henry yet true to her principles and there is something compelling in all of that.

How important do you think her faith was to her, particular in her final years when she faced her biggest challenges?
Her faith was absolutely central to her. It was the source of her courage and strength - and importantly of her capacity to forgive.

We understand there's been support for Catherine to be canonised. Could you tell us about that?
I have heard of that idea. It's a movement in the Roman Catholic Church I understand, and of course canonisation is a big symbolic statement of someone's spiritual importance. We honour the saints in the Church of England but don't ourselves make them, of course. Catherine's importance in the shaping of English history would clearly be significant as well as her personal holiness.



Henry treated Catherine unkindly when he became enamoured with Anne Boleyn



venerate her in a religious sort of way," Dorothy Halfhide, town guide with Vivacity Peterborough and curator of Thorney Heritage Museum explains to us. Halfhide has been working as a guide in Peterborough since 2005 and this year, dressed as a early 16th century dairy mistress, she's helping the city celebrate its 900th birthday (dating back to when construction of Peterborough's monastery, now Cathedral, began).

Visiting the festival this year, standing in that cathedral and witnessing the mass take place, we couldn't help but think of Catherine's own unwavering faith and devotion. Always a deeply religious person, the years fighting for her marriage to be recognised seem to have only deepened her connection to the Catholic Church, which always supported her cause and to further commit her to the idea that it was her soul rather than just her position of power that she was fighting to defend.

"She stuck very firmly to being part of the world Catholic Church and many people respected her for that and her learning and her interest in religion as well," Halfhide agrees. "It wasn't just a practicality. It was something she really believed in." And it is in part because of this that Catherine has remained a potent figure in many people's lives.

Another factor in this is the tale of Catherine's later years itself, which is probably how she is best known and which casts her as a rather tragic figure. For all of her strength and learning, there was very little she could do in her battle against being divorced from Henry. Or rather it would be more accurate to say that she rejected a great many of the things that she could have done for fear of the disastrous repercussions they

could have had on the English people as well as herself. With Henry battling the Catholic Church, she could have called upon her nephew, the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Charles V for assistance. She could have fought her corner through arms rather than words and in the process might well have raised a significant army of Englishmen loyal to her and to the faith, but she chose not to. She chose a more difficult path, but one that was true to her reputation as a woman of deeply held religious values and morality.

But this meant she lived out her final years as a virtual prisoner of Henry's, separated from her daughter Mary and often only able to communicate through letters. She lived in stately homes with servants and handmaids, but it was not the luxury and riches she had grown up with. Using her marriage to his late brother Arthur as the primary pretext for annulling their union, Henry insisted that she be referred to as Dowager Princess and never Queen. Through this decree, Catherine was able to determine those who were loyal to her and those to her husband. As the years passed, she came to view those who called her Dowager Princess as her jailers, not her servants. It is understood she spent most of her days in her room, hardly ever leaving and taking most of her meetings with the few visitors she had there, away from those who might listen in and send word back to Windsor.

One such visitor and one of Catherine's closest allies in these troubled days was the Imperial Ambassador to England from Charles V, Eustace Chapuys. It is understood that Catherine specifically asked for Chapuys to be appointed thanks to his legal background and he was able to act as her defender at court in her absence. He was

Catherine's Final Resting Place

Catherine's final years were sorrowful but her faith gave her strength



In 1541 Henry VIII signed a deed of endowment for a new cathedral to be built on Peterborough Abbey's land.



Wreaths are laid on the tomb of Catherine of Aragon along with portraits drawn by local children.



Local schoolchildren enjoyed getting attired in Tudor dress for Catherine's remembrance service.



Local dignitaries and representatives of the Spanish government were in attendance for the service.



Four candles are lit, representing four of Catherine's virtues of faithfulness, love, peace and forgiveness.

The 'Katharine Of Aragon' Festival will return next January in Peterborough. For more information about that and other events visit peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/events



Catherine may have had from some form of cancer or heart disease, according to records of her autopsy from the time

also able to give counsel to her daughter as Mary was finding the whole matter increasingly trying and upsetting.

While blocked from visiting Catherine for some time, Chapuys finally went to Kimbolton when Catherine began to fall ill and was able to converse in Spanish, which would have allowed them to speak secretly so that the servants couldn't understand. That being said they also appear to have made a big play of arranging a meeting with all Catherine's house present, spoken in English, so that her commitment to her marriage and faithfulness could be reported back to Henry, not that it ultimately helped in the days to come.

Still, presenting a defiant, yet loyal front to the end seems to have been of the utmost importance to Catherine. A letter to Henry supposedly written only hours before her death, the veracity of which has been questioned although the content is considered to be very close to Catherine's real feelings, claims to still be utterly committed to him and calls on him to think of his soul over worldly matters, saying, "For my part, I pardon you everything, and I wish to devoutly pray God that He will pardon you also."

There was still one last controversy to follow Catherine after she died and that was the cause of death. Catherine had taken to drinking Welsh Beer in her later years, possibly after complaining about the poor quality of 'young wines' she was being served in her exile, and it was rumoured that these drinks may have been poisoned, leading to the slow, but consistent decline in her health. A post-mortem at the time suggested that her organs were all healthy, save for her heart, which was black and had growths on it. It's believed this may indicate she was suffering from cancer or

heart disease and that this is a more likely cause of death than poisoning. Still, the rumour seemed in keeping with the tone of the story around Catherine, betrayed by her husband, plotted against and separated from her child. She lived in constant fear of her husband's wrath, which might offer an alternative explanation to her continued pronouncements of love and devotion beyond her commitment to her marriage alone. It's understandable that in the heat of the age, with a religious fissure developing through the heart of the nation, such conspiracies would take root.

As it was Anne Boleyn would miscarry on the day of Catherine's funeral in Peterborough Abbey and her good standing with Henry would rapidly decline in the months that followed. Less than five months after his first wife's death, Henry would have his second executed on charges of adultery, incest and treason, suffering exactly the fate that Catherine had hoped to avoid for so many years.

Ultimately, it's clear to see why Catherine of Aragon remains such a popular figure. Her steadfastness in the face of hardship represents exactly the kind of defiant nobility that England has traditionally valued in its leaders and heroes. Her religious devotion means that she is as important to English Catholics now as she was at the time of the schism with Rome. And her life prior to Henry VIII's betrayal makes her downfall all the more dramatic and tragic, making her a hugely sympathetic figure. Standing in Peterborough Cathedral, seeing local schoolchildren dressed as Tudor ladies and gentlemen, seeing the Mayor of Peterborough and representatives of the Spanish embassy as well as many members of the public gather to remember Catherine, her appeal couldn't be clearer.

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★ A UNITED STATES OF ★ ★ EUROPE? ★

We look back over the many
attempts to bring the continent of
Europe together under one rule

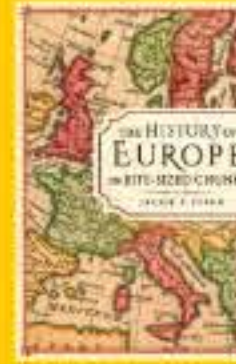
Written by Jonathan Gordon

The concept of European cooperation and interdependency didn't start with the formation of the European Union. Its origins date back many hundreds of years to the earliest empires, and their influence continued to be felt right up to the modern era. Through the many attempts to bring the continent together, mostly through conquest and imperial ambition, we see many different ideas of what it means to bring

Europe under one rule, whether it should have shared laws, shared controls, shared language and culture.

In the following pages we talk with Cambridge research associate and history author Jacob F Field about six key examples of European unity through history, what they took from each other, how they interpreted the vision of the united Europe and how they left their mark on what would come down the line.

EXPERT BIO | JACOB F FIELD



A research associate at the University of Cambridge, with a PhD in history from the University of Newcastle, Field has also written a number of popular history books, including *One Bloody Thing After Another*, looking at the gory history of the world, *D-Day In Numbers*, on the facts and figures behind Operation Overlord, and *We Shall Fight On The Beaches*, about the most inspirational speeches in history. His latest book, *The History Of Europe In Bite-sized Chunks*, is available from 7 March.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE (27 BCE – 395 CE)

The model for so much to come

When we talk about a singular vision for the continent of Europe all roads appear to lead back to Rome. While there were empires that preceded it, so much of how Rome managed its immense empire resonated for hundreds of years longer in each territory it touched. It had a wide-ranging set of policies that not only controlled Europe, but helped to define it as a region that could have common goals and authority. "The Holy Roman Empire makes its name from it. Titles like Tsar and Kaiser come from Caesar. Everyone is looking to Rome," Field tells us. So if so much of what follows is an attempt to emulate or live up to Roman Europe, what did it aspire to? "I think at least at first it was about security," Field explains. "The fact that you're based in the Mediterranean means that you have so many other rivals and it's so important to have control of the whole basin. I think once Rome did that and started expanding, it kind of becomes like a shark that has to keep on moving forward to guarantee its security and its prosperity."

What followed was a pretty multifaceted approach to building and controlling a unified continent, not just through direct rule from Rome through imposing local governors, but also by spreading its culture, laws and economics. Roads helped to tie the continent together and encourage trade among the regions, a unified tax code made sure everyone paid their share and the introduction of Roman baths and wine are examples of the spread of culture too. "Rome is the most ambitious attempt to try and not just bring together Europe politically and try to dominate someone, but to try and bring them into this system and way of thinking, even on a cultural level," says Field.

And there was the central Roman army, which not only gave the empire the teeth with which to defend and enforce its laws, but also gave non-Roman citizens a path to citizenship and equality within the empire. "In some ways I think that the Roman army makes it even more an ambitious

policy than the EU. It was a central army and it was a rather democratic way for anyone to become a Roman citizen, buying into the system. If you weren't a Roman citizen you could join for 25 years and at the end of your service you become as much a Roman as someone born in Italy. In a way it's the army that, although it's a strength, in a sense leads to its downfall and makes Rome much more unstable later on, when you have people in the provinces being more loyal to their legion commander than the emperor in Rome. That's when things begin to get problematic, in the West at least."



Key

-  - Single currency
-  - Representation
-  - Democratic rights
-  - Legal system
-  - Freedom of movement
-  - Free trade
-  - Central taxation
-  - Central military

THE FRANKISH EMPIRE (481 – 843)

Charlemagne's great experiment

While the Kingdom of Francia stood for many hundreds of years the eye is naturally drawn to the rule of Charlemagne and the Carolingian Empire phase of its history. This is where a unified vision for the continent takes shape and a centralised series of policies seeks to bring order to Europe as a whole. "Charlemagne codifies the laws and he sends out envoys to the provinces, like inspectors, to make sure the laws are being followed and sent along," Field tells us. "Charlemagne isn't just someone who said 'the laws should be this'. He's actually trying to enforce them and that's another way you can compare it to the EU. The EU is pretty stringent about making EU regulations and laws are followed. Because of modern technology they're more successful than Charlemagne, but they are still trying to have the same end goal of this centralised set of laws and breaking down local barriers and so on."

Counts were put in charge of provinces and each was given several legal experts, called *scabini*, to maintain a consistent interpretation of the law. These counts were in turn in charge of levying soldiers for Charlemagne's army, collecting tolls and maintaining infrastructure. In addition there was an annual meeting of all the important



men of the empire to discuss issues affecting the realm, offering a degree of representation for each province. It doesn't quite hold together though, as the post-Roman world, particularly in Western Europe, is still very fragmented and issues such as inheritance caused Charlemagne's achievements to be pulled apart. "One of the problems of Francia is that you have this inbuilt rivalry between the heirs who are jockeying for seniority, jockeying for position, so after Charlemagne dies you have this quite long period of instability and civil war between his sons, which is only solved by the

Treaty of Verdun in 843, when they formally decide to split the empire into three.

"It's only really under Charlemagne, who was this incredibly charismatic and energetic leader, where we can compare the Frankish realms to something like the Roman Empire, because really it's a very short period that you have this sense of imperial unity," Field explains. "Also this was an incredibly violent process. Charlemagne was constantly at war and had to use violence and coercion to bring people under his rule and convert them to Christianity."



THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE (962 – 1806)

Rule in devolved form

While Charlemagne took the title of Holy Roman Empire in his time, it is really more the late-medieval and early modern period that we think of as the height of the empire and where it is closest to holding a unified Europe together. That said, it's also one of the most decentralised instances of such a project prior to the European Union itself with each state (there were 300 of them by 1648) run by its own king, duke or count reporting in to the emperor, who was himself elected. Importantly for our understanding of the progression towards the current model, it poked around the edges of various unified forms of policy-making and representation.

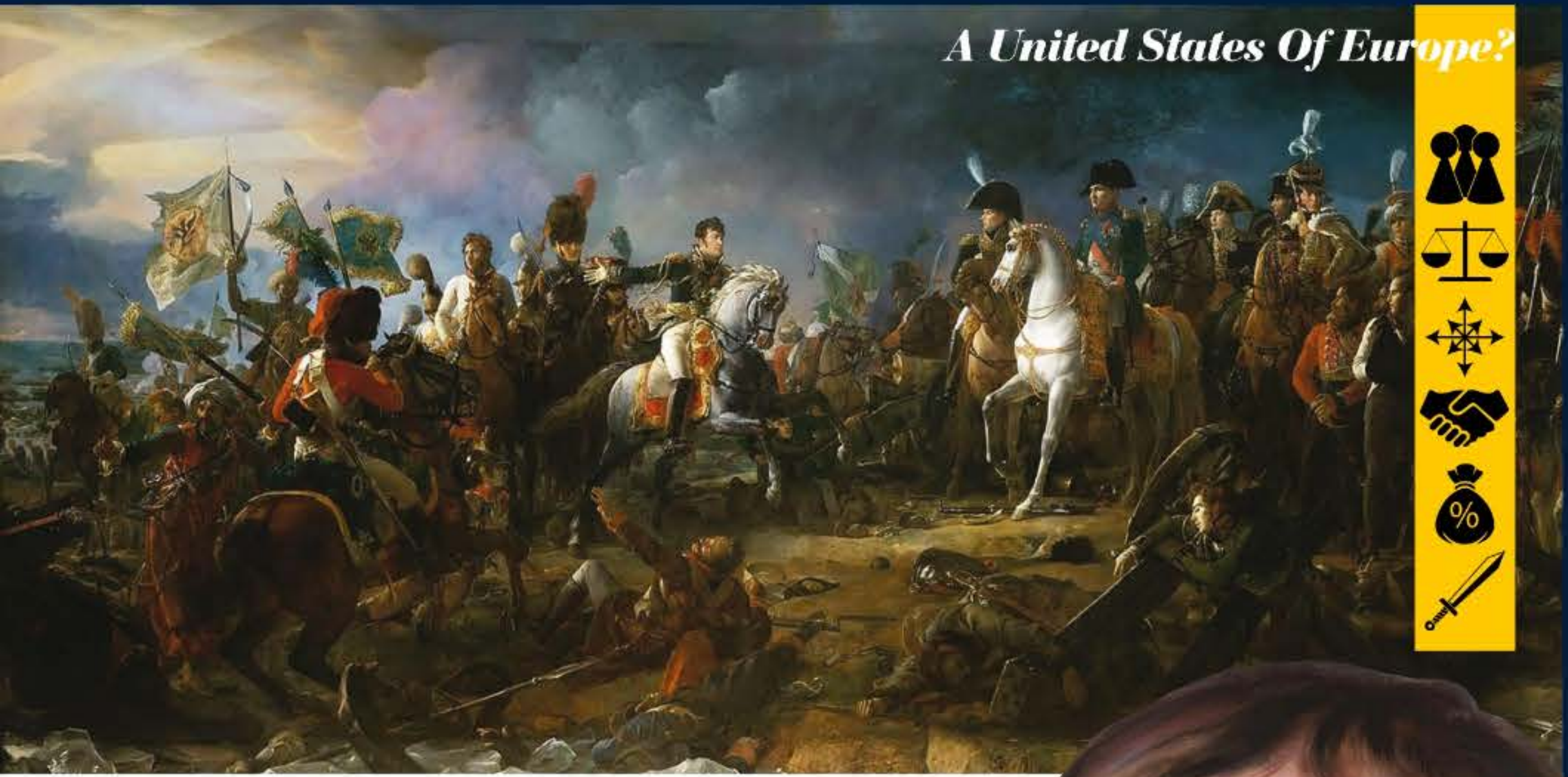
"You've got the Imperial Diet, which from the mid-17th century is a permanent forum for the different member states to discuss things," Field begins. "They can't set laws, but it is a kind of central institution. You've got the imperial circles, which are local and regional court systems. There's an imperial central court, which is kind of like the EU court, but is really, really slow."

There were other things that were not present in terms of the kind of central

control the original Roman Empire offered, such as a centralised currency. The thaler was seemingly an attempt at this but really only used for helping to value other currencies already in use around the empire. There was also no standing army for the emperor. One could be called, but that relied on local leaders supporting the emperor and heeding the call.

And then there's the dual power of the Pope that causes even more issues: "You have the occasional crises, particularly in the later medieval period where there's a rivalry between the emperor and the Pope. There's a tension about who appoints bishops and so on; the investiture crisis."

Continuous conflict between the states, often around religion, ending with the 30 Years War, finally comes to an end with the Peace of Westphalia, but this only confirms what was already known about the empire by this time, according to Field. "The components of the Holy Roman Empire were essentially sovereign states that just happened to be a part of this wider organisation. But really, after 1648, the power of the empire is existing in name only and the Habsburgs become much more focused on Austria and central Europe."



NAPOLEONIC EMPIRE (1804 – 1814)

A model for modern laws

Napoleon really put the final nail in the coffin of the Holy Roman Empire, seeking to topple the feudal remnants of the old systems of monarchy and replace them with something equally autocratic, but with greater equality before the law. Again this was a short-lived period of a united Europe under a single, iconic leader, but it left us with a lot of big influential ideas that resonate to this day. "He said himself that his great triumph was not his military victories but the Code Napoléon, his civil legal system, which swept away a lot of old-fashioned laws, which were often contradictory and had a lot of regional aspects," explains Field. "It essentially set forward things like equality before the law, it ended a lot of aristocratic privilege. A legalised right to divorce. Freedom of religion whether it was Christians, Jews, Catholics and Protestants and so on. You've got centralised courts."

And while he ultimately wanted himself as the sole ruler of the empire he was building, he still practiced the meritocracy he was preaching as part of the post-revolutionary wave he was riding, as the make up of his army proves. "If you look at his marshals, a lot of them started as corporals or privates and worked their way up the army. Although, from a British perspective we could look at Napoleon sometimes quite negatively, certainly his way of ruling had a lot of modern aspects to it."

In some ways his conflict with Britain and the embargo he tried to enforce against trading with Britain was part of what weakened the project as a whole. "In some parts of the empire this was just not going to work.

Places like Portugal and Spain trade so much with Britain, it's really bad for the economy. It was very unpopular in the Low Countries, but in places like Switzerland it encourages local manufacturing there because they didn't have to compete with the British. His institutions weren't strong enough to hold this embargo against British trade for very long. And again, this wasn't a kind of thought through economic policy. This was his political and military response to his ongoing rivalry with Britain."

Still, the legal changes he introduced made a big difference across the continent. "In terms of long-term impact the Napoleonic Code still has a lot of echoes in systems of law and civil law that are in place," Field tells us. "Countries that were part of the Napoleonic system after the early 19th century keep much better records, because he introduces civil registration."

"I wished to found a European system, a European Code of Laws, a European judiciary: there would be but one people in Europe."

– Napoleon Bonaparte, *Writing from exile in St Helena, 1815-21*

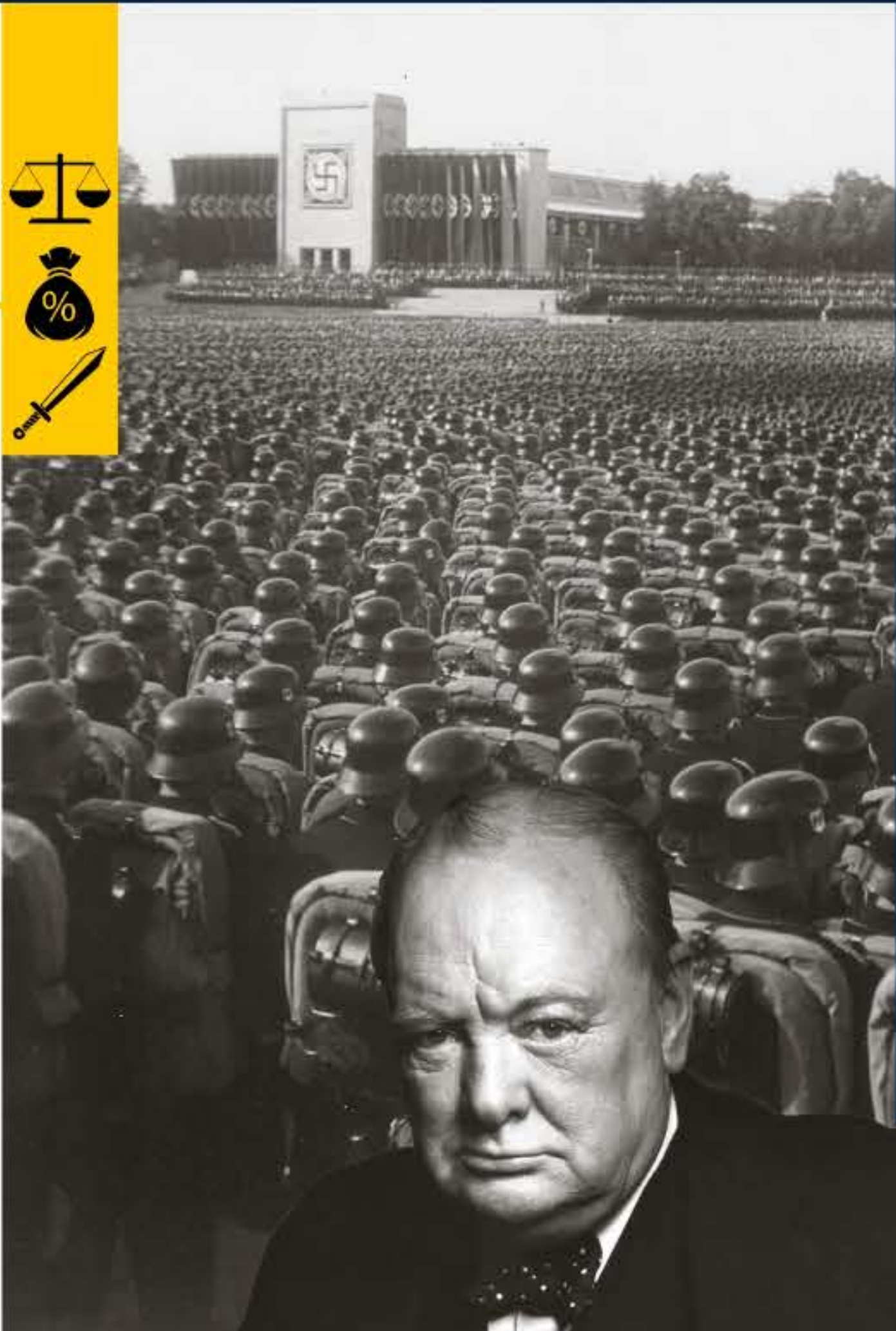
THE NAZI REICH (1933 – 1945)

The opposite of union

The calls for Europe to come together under a single banner had been building, particularly after the Napoleonic Wars, increasing more still after the Great War, but the vision of Hitler and the Nazi Party was very different from what most had been dreaming of, even if it drew many of its influences from the Roman Empire, much like those that came before them. In a complete flip from the civil code of Napoleon, the Nazi Reich looked to establish a massive cultural shift in Europe with a racially driven division of society. "As an attempt to remodel and restructure society this was an empire with very wide-ranging ambitions. You've got this official policy where you create this hierarchy of races from the Nordic Aryans at the top and going forth to the *Untermenschen*. You're got a set educational policy and even a set leisure policy with things like Strength Through Joy. You've got a set culture; the radio and cinema were really important to the rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazi policy," concludes Field.

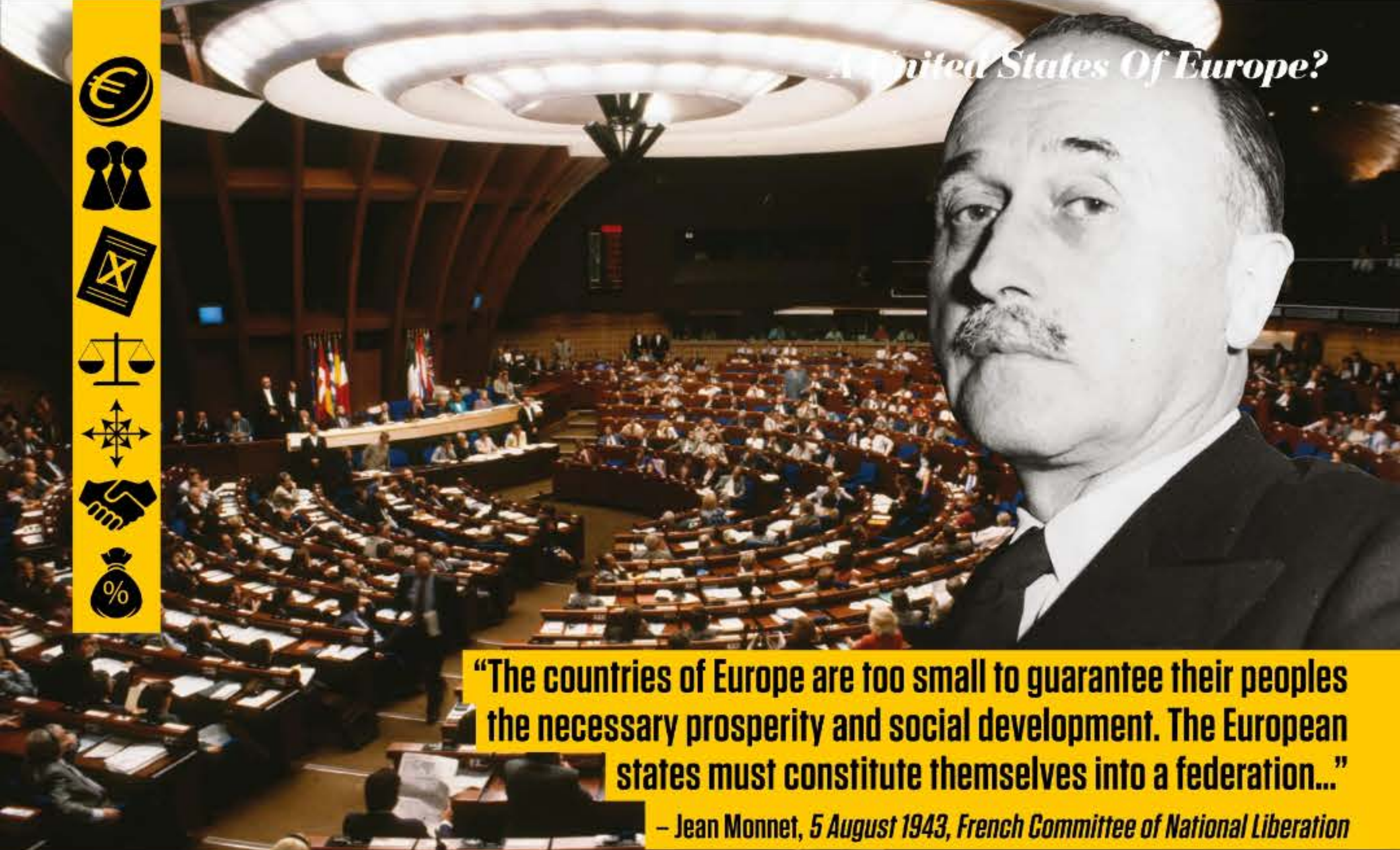
As World War II began a series of military states and puppet governments were set up to control the empire, enforcing law, collecting taxes and conscripting troops (according to the racial ranking system). But even in its name it was constantly calling back to the past, the Third Reich being the third empire following the Holy Roman and Germanic. "They were kind of magpie-like in taking elements from Pagan culture and Viking culture. Especially to people like Himmler, that was very important to him. Another thing is that economically you've got the currency of the Reichsmark and what they would do is set official exchange rates with client states, which were very beneficial with the Reichsmark. They even had a set rate with the pound sterling when they occupied the Channel Islands."

In this way everything feeds back into Germany rather than any kind of pan-European cooperation. There is no representation, no negotiation or compromise to be had here, even with those who were ideologically similar to their outlook. "The deal with Mussolini was he could have Italy and parts of the Mediterranean and parts of Africa, but only in so far as they are subservient and secondary to the needs of the Germanic people. It was very much an unequal Europe they were trying to create."



"We must build a kind of United States of Europe. In this way only will hundreds of millions of toilers be able to regain the simple joys and hopes, which make life worth living."

– Winston Churchill, 19 September 1946, University of Zurich



“The countries of Europe are too small to guarantee their peoples the necessary prosperity and social development. The European states must constitute themselves into a federation...”

– Jean Monnet, 5 August 1943, French Committee of National Liberation

THE EUROPEAN UNION (1958 – PRESENT)

A path to peace

The formation of the current European Union was something that started slowly and gradually gathered pace faster and faster in the years that followed. Beginning with the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951, followed by the European Economic Community in 1957, there was a recognition that economic interdependency and alliance would help to bring to an end the decades and centuries of conflict in Europe. “You’re joining together countries through a common set of economic policies,” says Field. “I think free trade really is at the heart of the European experiment in my view and one of the reasons why in one sense it’s been incredibly successful in that there’s never been a war between EU member states and the EU is the only one of these empires where there hasn’t been internal disorder, open violence between member states and areas of it.”

Given that this all begins with economic cooperation, oversight naturally grows to be a massive part of the equation and the European Union is formed of six nations to begin with, gradually expanding to the current 28 countries. The model perhaps closest to that of Rome, according to Field. “I think for the first time since Rome you have incredibly strong centralised institutions, the European Courts, the European Parliament,” he tells

us. “In another sense these institutions are at least nominally democratic. We elect the European Parliament technically speaking. The bureaucrats and civil servants that work for the EU are accountable to democratic institutions.”

As it stands member states elect MEPs to a lower chamber of the European Parliament with ministers from each country making up the upper house. There’s central control of a lot of decision-making and law-making, but it’s agreed by the collective. Also, unlike other empires, there’s no cultural imposition being made. “It’s not a situation where everyone is going to speak French or Esperanto or whatever. Things like freedom of religion are part of the bedrock of the EU, so in a sense these common freedoms are really important. In terms of creating a European culture, it hasn’t really done that because it’s impossible really. Culture is so diffuse. You can’t set a European religion. In that sense it’s not as ambitious as something like the Roman Empire or the Third Reich, which are trying to change culture and society from the top down.”

The introduction of a central currency in the Euro has shown some of the fault lines in some of the EU’s centralised approach, however. “Europe has the European Central Bank, which is setting a country’s financial policies centrally, which is one of the problems that sprang

up, because the EU has some very rich and advanced countries like Germany and France and then some countries that, although rich in historical and geographical terms, compared to France and Germany, places like Greece and Portugal are struggling. It’s very difficult to create a coherent economic policy that fits all countries who have adopted the Euro. That’s one of the problems with this kind of centralised mechanism. The EU is seven per cent of the world’s population and about a quarter of its GDP, so it’s incredibly ambitious to think you can tie all of these diffuse countries together.”

And while there’s often talk of a European Army, there are many impediments to that emerging according to Field, with the EU more likely to rely on common security planning and the exchange of intelligence in the near future. “The idea of giving up your country’s own armed forces, most people respond to that in a fairly negative way. Even if you’re friendly to the concept and idea of further European integration, I think that’s a step that a lot of people and states would be unwilling to make, particularly some of the newer members and the former Balkans. Croats might not be so keen on having their army as part of the same organisation that Serbia and Kosovo are part of. We’re a pretty long way off an EU Army.”


Madam President?



THE SECRET PRESIDENCY OF EDITH WILSON

Forget Hillary Clinton's failure to take the White House. The fascinating story of Woodrow Wilson's second wife Edith raises the question of whether America has already had a woman president – and just didn't know it

Written by Beth Wyatt



On 2 October 1919, Edith Bolling Wilson's life took a traumatic turn. Her husband Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States, had suffered a stroke, which partially paralysed his body and severely weakened his constitution, leaving him "a shadow of his former self", according to his butler Ike Hoover. Edith was a dutiful First Lady, devoted to her husband and his public service, and proud of her role as his most treasured confidante. But her husband's ill health led Edith to assume what has been described as her 'secret presidency', an unprecedented development

that prompted gossip and controversy at the time, and has been hotly debated ever since. Until Woodrow's term concluded in 1921 Edith looked after his business, acting as a gatekeeper who managed access to the president, chose which matters should or should not be presented to him, and collaborated with his physician to conceal the gravity of his illness. Edith's "stewardship", as she described it, did not go unnoticed – one outraged Republican senator dismissed it as the "petticoat government". Edith's life had become far removed from the heady days of 1915 when she was courted by the lovestruck president.

Madam President?

The couple crossed paths in unsettling times. Europe and the wider world were held in the grip of a war, which had killed and wounded thousands, and would take many more lives before its end. Pressure was increasing on Woodrow and his administration, with the sinking of ocean liner the Lusitania - which caused the deaths of more than a thousand people including 128 Americans - leading to questions of whether the United States should intervene in World War I. The president had some weighty decisions ahead of him, but he was to be driven to distraction by a vivacious widow called Edith Bolling Galt. The 42-year-old, born and raised in Virginia, was to turn her fellow southerner's head quite considerably.

It is said the 58-year-old president first caught a glimpse of Edith strolling down a Washington street, but they were not to meet until an introduction was hosted by Woodrow's cousin Helen Bones at the White House in March 1915. Edith and Woodrow had both been widowed - the president was heartbroken at the death of Ellen, his wife of almost 30 years, in August 1914, and Edith's husband of 12 years Norman Galt had died in 1908. Edith experienced a new independence following her husband's death. She inherited his family's prosperous jewellery business, toured Europe, and upon her return to Washington she was known for driving her new automobile around its streets (it is thought she was one of the first women to drive in the capital). Woodrow was taken by the intriguing Edith, and he began to conduct himself in a manner quite at odds with his public image as a serious, academically-minded man.

The president wrote numerous love letters to Edith, gifted her with roses, orchids and books, and took her on strolls around Rock Creek Park, where it is said that he jumped over walls and hugged her, to the embarrassment of the secret service men accompanying them. It didn't take long for Woodrow's colleagues and the media to cotton on to this budding romance. He proposed just two months after the couple had met. Edith declined this advance, possibly due to conventions of the time that saw women reject initial proposals. When she later reconsidered, Edith had reservations due to the timing - the president was due to run for another term in the 1916 elections. But she shook them off, and the pair were wed in a private service at Edith's Washington home on 18 December 1915.

It soon became apparent that Edith made a fine First Lady. America entered World War I in 1917 and throughout the remainder of the conflict's duration, Edith set an example to the American public through activities such as forming a Red Cross unit at the White House, grazing sheep on the lawn to avoid the use of a mower (and donating the sheep's wool to the charity), sewing pyjamas for soldiers being cared for in hospitals, visiting wounded servicemen in the country and abroad, and hosting such dates as gasless Sundays,



Mary D. Woodrow Wilson
Edith Bolling Wilson

“Edith’s ‘stewardship’, as she described it, did not go unnoticed – one outraged Republican senator dismissed it as the ‘petticoat government’”



Checklist for the modern First Lady

How Edith influenced the actions of future presidents' wives

Play your part in times of adversity

Edith was a strong role model for American women during World War I. She set an example through taking up charity work, visiting wounded soldiers, and encouraging changes in diet and clothing where this would assist the war effort

Champion a cause

First Ladies have been able to wield their own influence through promoting particular patriotic causes. But, it has been said, that where the likes of Eleanor Roosevelt championed social change, Edith's passionate cause was her husband

Schmooze international politicians and royalty

Edith mingled with high-ranking European politicians at the Paris Peace Conference, was a guest of King George and Queen Mary's at Buckingham Palace, and admitted Belgium's king and queen to Woodrow's sickbed in the time after his stroke

Pen a bestselling memoir

Michelle Obama is the latest in a long line of former First Ladies to publish a memoir. Edith's intimate effort 'My Memoir' became a bestseller, but criticism included arguments that she dabbled with the truth, and focused more on her social life than, for example, her 'secret presidency'

Preserve your husband's legacy

Edith was committed to Woodrow to the end. In the decades following his passing, she donated his papers to the Library of Congress, looked over the script for the Hollywood film about his life, and agreed to their love letters being published (after her death)



Woodrow Wilson throwing out the ceremonial first ball on opening day of the 1916 major league baseball season, Washington, DC. His wife Edith looks on, left



Edith and Woodrow were guests of King George and Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace

George R. I. Mary





Woodrow sits joyfully next to First Lady Edith

meatless Mondays and wheatless Wednesdays at the White House.

Despite having little formal education, Edith proved to be an opinionated and devoted adviser to the president; indeed it has been said that the depths of her involvement with the daily routines of the White House were unlike that of any previous First Lady. Even during their engagement Woodrow gave Edith copies of his speeches to gauge her thoughts on them; he also shared diplomatic statements with her. Edith once wrote to Woodrow: "Much as I love your delicious love letters I believe I enjoy even more the ones in which you tell me ... of what you are working on - the things that fill your thoughts and demand your best effort, for then I feel I am sharing your work and being taken into partnership as it were." Edith provided emotional and domestic, as well as political, support to her husband; she gave comfort as the strain of World War I grew on him; when his health worsened she encouraged him to change his diet and take up more exercise, and she had an influence in shaking up his public image - it has been remarked that Woodrow and Edith became in their time the most celebrated president and First Lady, surpassing all the couples who came before them.

Following the Allies' victory in the war, Edith accompanied Woodrow to the Paris Peace Conference, and to subsequent tours of London and Rome at which they met the countries' respective royal families. She also joined her husband on his 27-day tour of America in

LIFE BEFORE THE WHITE HOUSE

Edith's journey from Virginia girl to powerful president's wife

Edith wasn't always an independent, wealthy Washington woman. She was born on 15 October 1872, in Wytheville, Virginia, raised in a family which had grown prosperous on the back of the slave trade but experienced a change in circumstances following the American Civil War and the outlawing of slavery. One of nine surviving children, Edith, the daughter of circuit court judge William Holcombe Bolling, was the favourite grandchild of her paternal grandmother Anne Wigginton Bolling, who she spent most of her hours with, attending to chores including washing and ironing her grandmother's clothes and looking after her 26 canaries. The future First Lady's education was patchy. She learnt French, English, poetry, music, and dressmaking at home - and attended a finishing

school and a school for girls for a short time - but her brothers' education was the priority. Edith could trace her family history back to Pocahontas and her husband John Rolfe, and historians have commented on the irony of her public pride in her Native American heritage when her general views on race left much to be desired. So on the one hand Edith celebrated her lineage as First Lady in naming some of a new fleet of naval ships after Native American tribes, but on the other she told stereotypical stories in conversation and made prejudicial comments in her memoir. Edith went on to marry Norman Galt, whose family owned a successful jewellery business. It seems this marriage was not the match that her second would prove to be. Their only child together, a son, died a few days after his birth. Seven years after Galt's death in 1908, Edith caught a certain president's eye and the rest was history.

The Secret Presidency Of Edith Wilson

autumn 1919 to convince the country that the US should ratify the Treaty of Versailles and join Woodrow's newly-formed global peace organisation, the League of Nations. As Edith and Dr Cary T Grayson, his physician, had feared, the tour took a toll on Woodrow's health and he fell gravely ill. On 25 September 1919 the president collapsed following a speech he gave in Pueblo, Colorado, and the trio rushed back to Washington. But Woodrow had a severe stroke on 2 October and it seems he was never able to recover from this trauma.

Edith took the reins. To what extent is debatable - some have said she was in effect America's first, and only, woman president, while others argue that she had little real power and was only carrying out President Wilson's wishes, both vocally communicated and those she assumed of him. The First Lady wrote about what she described as her "stewardship" in 'My Memoir', the autobiography she published in 1938 and which was partially serialised in *The Saturday Evening Post* as Europe marched towards another global war. An extract titled 'When Woodrow Was Ill', published on 25 February 1939, saw Edith write: "I studied every paper, sent for the different secretaries or senators, and tried to digest and present in tabloid form the things that, despite my vigilance, had to go to the President. I, myself, never made a single decision regarding the disposition of public affairs. The only decision that was mine was what was important and what was not, and the very important decision of when to present them to my husband." But some politicians did not see it this way. Republican Senator Albert Fall, an opponent

of Wilson's, declared in outrage: "We have a petticoat government! Wilson is not acting! Mrs Wilson is President!"

One particularly controversial element of Edith's stewardship was the fact she deliberately concealed the severity of her husband's illness. In her previously mentioned article 'When Woodrow Was Ill', Edith wrote that Woodrow's mind had not been affected by his stroke: "An arm and one leg were useless, but, thank God, the brain was clear and untouched." She added that she enquired with his doctors about whether he should resign and one strongly advised against taking such a course of action, as it would have a negative impact on both the president and the country.

Edith's memoir has been heavily scrutinised, and indeed one of her biographers exclaimed it was "fanciful". Her description of Woodrow being entirely fit to continue as president does not stand up in the face of the knowledge we have of his condition - his left arm was paralysed by the stroke, he was blind in one eye, his voice would

“Despite having little formal education, Edith proved to be an opinionated and devoted adviser to the president”



give out after speaking for a while, and he was hardly able to move; he could not get out of bed until mid-November. The president was after some time able to independently walk short distances, but he was so weak that he could not attend a cabinet meeting until spring 1920.

Edith and Dr Grayson cocooned the president from the outside world, allowing him contact only with themselves and his daughters from his first marriage (Edith and Woodrow did not have any children together). In an entire month, no one from the government saw the president, and the public was made to believe that he was resting from a bout of exhaustion. Not everyone was satisfied with this explanation. On 5 December 1919, Republicans sitting in Congress sent representatives to look upon the president's condition in person. This incident, later christened the visit of the "smelling committee", was no challenge for Edith and Dr Grayson - they simply adjusted Woodrow's position and posture so the true extent of his disabilities was hidden.

The First Lady may have claimed that she brought all important matters before the president, but it has been said that there were many letters left unopened and issues ignored, with Edith either neglecting the approaches of cabinet members or approving their actions based on her views or those she predicted of her husband. Arguments that Edith was de facto president waver in light of the government appearing to have not functioned well at all - America almost went to war with Mexico over a dispute about Americans drilling for oil in the country, and Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, could not get through to Edith, and by extension Woodrow,



The White House pictured at the time of Woodrow Wilson's presidency



Woodrow Wilson and his wife Edith with a secret service escort, on 1 March 1917



President John F. Kennedy signs a Joint Resolution for the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Commission. Looking on is 89-year-old Edith

THE FIRST LADY VS. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Her own elevated position didn't ensure her support for suffragists

Edith has been described as the most powerful of all America's First Ladies, with her stewardship of the administration following her husband's stroke in 1919. But the ascendancy in public life she had experienced since marrying Woodrow Wilson did not mean she was inclined for other women to occupy such prominent positions in American society. In fact, Edith, who was known for her strong opinions, has been described as an opponent of women's suffrage movements in the United States. She came into conflict with the matter due to her husband increasingly becoming the target of protests by campaigners, with women frequently picketing the White House. Woodrow began to sympathise with the idea of states being able to decide for or against votes for women, but he was not interested in securing national suffrage for them. Edith, who appeared to particularly dislike Alice Paul's National Woman's Party, made comments such as describing suffrage campaigners as "despicable", and she wrote in her diary that she hated the subject with "acute agony". Though it has to be said that some historians have suggested that Edith's views were more ambiguous and that she didn't deny she was a supporter in the face of overwhelming public opinion that she was. It has been argued that the First Lady was concerned about what women's suffrage would mean for her role as her husband's champion and protector. Woodrow eventually changed his mind on the matter, partially it seemed because of women's efforts in World War I, and Edith took the chance to join her husband in voting for the next president in 1920.



“Edith’s denial of reality saw her implore her husband to seek a third term in 1920, when he could not even make it down the corridor to his office”



for a long time. Eventually the issue was brought before the president and he was able to direct a solution and diffuse the crisis. Edith’s handling of the storm around the United States joining the League of Nations has also been intensely debated, with some commentators theorising that Edith’s failure to bring differing voices before the president – rather than just her own – meant there was less chance of Woodrow offering compromises to his opponents, and therefore the possibility of the country becoming a member of the League was lost.

However the reader stands on the matter of whether Edith was or was not the ‘secret president’, it is clear that her role in controlling access to her husband meant she was able to freeze out those advisors of his she distrusted. The First Lady’s chief concern was in facilitating the president’s public service by being his closest confidante and adviser; she was fiercely protective and had a long-held hostility towards many politicians in his circle. Woodrow’s adviser, Edward M House, and his Secretary of the Treasury, William G McAdoo, for example, offended Edith when they encouraged the president to not marry her ahead of the 1916 presidential elections, using a fictional blackmail threat from Mary Hulbert Peck – a woman Woodrow had been close to during his first marriage – to bolster these attempts. Others Edith was suspicious of included Joe Tumulty, her husband’s personal secretary, who also cautioned against the marriage taking place at that time; Secretary of State Robert Lansing – who she saw as a traitor because he held cabinet meetings while Woodrow was ill following his stroke; and Henry Cabot Lodge, the Republican senator who spearheaded the opposition to America approving the Treaty of Versailles – Edith had her revenge on the latter by refusing his request to attend the president’s funeral.

Given the severity of Woodrow’s condition, it seems extraordinary that he remained in post as president. It is unclear how the history of post-war America, which suffered the same economic gloom as Europe, could have been different if vice president Thomas Riley Marshall had taken over and government had been able to operate at its full efficiency. Edith’s denial of reality saw



Virginia Truman, Edith Wilson and Eleanor Roosevelt together at a Democratic Party gathering

her implore her husband to seek a third term in 1920, when he could not even make it down the corridor to his office. But the Democrats did not renominate him, and Republican Warren G Harding was elected in 1921 on a campaign promising “a return to normalcy”. In March that year the former president and first lady settled into a new home in Washington and Edith cared for her husband until he died in 1924 aged 67. She devoted the rest of her life to ensuring his legacy lived on – her autobiography ‘My Memoir’ (1938) was a bestseller, she permitted the couple’s love letters to be edited and published after her death, and she assisted Ray Stannard Baker in collating material for his authorised, eight-volume biography of Woodrow, which won the Pulitzer Prize. Edith also donated her husband’s papers to the Library of Congress, aided the establishment of what became the Woodrow Wilson Library and Museum (at the Virginia residence where Woodrow had been born), read, in 1942, the script for the Hollywood movie *Wilson*, and took part in the Woodrow Wilson Centennial Events in 1956, celebrating 100 years since his birth.

The former First Lady remained relatively active in Democrat Party circles for the rest of her life. She campaigned for Franklin D Roosevelt when he was a nominee for the presidency (Edith was a long-time friend of Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor), took part in party conventions, and in 1961 Edith was invited by John F Kennedy to join his inaugural procession. Typifying her never-ending devotion to her husband and his memory, Edith was on the day she died due to attend the unveiling of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, built to link Washington to Maryland and Virginia. This date, 28 December 1961, was the anniversary of her husband’s birth 105 years earlier. The 89-year-old Edith was buried alongside Woodrow at the Washington National Cathedral following her funeral there. She is the only First Lady to have had a funeral held at the cathedral.

Edith’s ‘secret presidency’ has continued to fascinate, and it was brought into the spotlight when Hillary Clinton vied to become the US’s first woman president. As that ultimate glass ceiling continues to elude women, Edith’s unlikely story will surely continue to be debated and enjoyed.

Vincent

IN HIS OWN WORDS

Vincent van Gogh may be celebrated for his masterpieces, but his greatest legacy – and the key to understanding the man himself – are his letters

Written by Philippa Grafton

Three months after leaving Paris for the south of France, Vincent van Gogh – his mind awash with thoughts of art, the future, his new home in Arles – sat down to write to his brother. “My dear Theo,” he wrote on 4 May 1888, “I’m dropping you another line to tell you that on reflection it would be better for me just to take a rug & a mattress and make a bed on the floor in the studio.” So began one of Vincent’s most profound letters. Simple questions of domesticity and Vincent’s humble life soon gave way to the inevitable lines on art, and what began as a mundane letter quickly turned prophetic: “The painter of the future will be a colourist the like of which has never yet been seen... I can’t imagine the painter of the future living in a small restaurant, setting to work with a lot of false teeth, and going to the Zouaves’ brothel as I do. But I’m sure I’m right to think that it will come in a later generation, and it is up to us to do what we can

to encourage it, without question or complaint.” It would take just over two years for Vincent’s prophecy of the “painter of the future” to come true, and despite his assertions, it was Vincent who would be the artist to fulfil it. By that time, Vincent would also be dead.

In his youth, Vincent had never intended to become an artist. Born on 30 March 1853, Vincent was the first surviving child of Reverend Theodorus van Gogh and his wife, Anna Carbentus. Four years after Vincent’s birth, Theo was born. Among a brood of six, Theo and Vincent were especially close, and when his childhood came to an end and he began his first job, Vincent took up his pen to write to his brother, his first missive to Theo written in 1872 while Vincent worked in The Hague. Three years before, Vincent had taken up a position at Goupil & Cie, an international art dealer that opened up the world to the young man. He was dismissed in 1876, but in the years before Vincent had lived and worked in Brussels, London



Vincent van Gogh



As well as writing to his brother, Vincent wrote to fellow artist Paul Gauguin to encourage him to visit. In his letter dated 17 October 1888, he sketched his bedroom in Arles

Et bien cela m'a énormément amusé de faire cet intérieur sans rien d'une simplicité à la Secura! A toutes plates mais grossièrement brossées en pleine pâte les murs les papiers le sol d'un rouge composé l'année des chaises à la lot jaune de chrome les oreillers etc. d'après l'échelle vert très pâle la couverture rouge sang la table la table orange la cavette bleue la fenêtre verte j'avais voulu exprimer un repos absolu par tous ces tons très divers vous voyez et ou il n'y a de blanc que la petite note que donne le miroir à cadre noir (pour laisser encore la quatrième partie de composition dans le blanc) Enfin vous voyez cela avec les autres et nous encauserons car je me suis souvent

pour que nous l'humidité en l'été et si vous y venez mais attendez la pluie d'ici vous ne trouvez aussi confort cherchons dépenses faire d'une j'accrois que mais elle dans les on d'autre on l'au moral maintes jours



neuren moet. Dat is juist! Effekt van de knoest maar in de aquaheel zelf is geen zwart dan in gebroken toestand. Waan op dit ochtendje het zwart & donker is zomen de grootste krachten in de aquaheel. Nu adieu, en gelaof me dat sommig een ik en hartelijk om loech dat de lui my plez eigentlijk met anders hen dan een vriend van de natuur van studie, van werk - ook van menschen vooral / verduiden van diverse kwaadaardigheden en absorptie waarvoor geen haer op mijn hoofd deukt. Enfin - tot zins met een hand zult. Vincent

A letter from Vincent to Theo, including a sketched version of a watercolour painting Vincent had made of a pollard willow tree in 1882

and Paris, where he indulged his passion for art by collecting prints and visiting galleries.

With his career in the art world seemingly at an end, Vincent devoted himself to his latest emerging passion: God. He was determined to follow in his father's footsteps, begging Theo in a letter dated 22 March 1877 to "cast your eye up on high and ask that it be granted to me". Over the course of three years, Vincent's determination turned to obsession, and his letters were soon filled with religious fervour, or lamenting at the long path ahead of him: "If only everything were already behind me, as it is behind Father, but it takes so much hard work to become a Christian labourer and a preacher of the Gospel." After moving to England once more, Vincent's quest to join the family trade led him to The Borinage in Belgium, where he became a preacher to coal miners. Living in squalid conditions in a bleak town, Vincent attempted to devote himself to his new congregation, but his methods attracted the ire of his superiors and he was quickly stripped of his position.

After just over two years, Vincent's devotion to God began to cool, and by 1879 he had abandoned his aspirations to join the clergy. Instead, Vincent was resolved to become an artist. However, with no income and an expensive new profession, Vincent needed money. It was at this point that Theo became Vincent's 'patron', a role that he would continue until his brother's dying day. It was a blessing, but the debt hung over Vincent's

"By 1879 Vincent had abandoned his aspirations to join the clergy"

head like a storm cloud, as he explained in August 1879: "If I ever came to believe seriously that I was being a nuisance or a burden to you or to those at home... then I should be overwhelmed by a feeling of sadness and should have to wrestle with despair."

In the time between Vincent's career in the clergy stalling and taking up art full-time, Vincent's relationship with his family began to crumble too. "For the past five years or so ... I have been more or less without permanent employment, wandering from pillar to post," Vincent wrote to Theo in July 1880. Aware of his own failings and utterly convinced of his father's disappointment in him, Vincent and his father quarrelled frequently, with Theodorus even threatening to send his son to an institution. "To the family I have, willy-nilly, become a more or less objectionable and shady sort of character, at any rate a bad lot," lamented Vincent.



A photograph of Theo, Vincent's closest confidant

Things weren't to improve in the coming months. Despite their clashes, Vincent moved back in with his parents in April 1881. Having fallen madly in love with his cousin, Kee Vos-Stricker, Vincent was rebuffed in three cutting words: 'Never, no, never'.

While Kee's and Vincent's parents were satisfied that this was the end of the matter, Vincent continued to pursue her. "Should I resign myself to that 'never, no, never', or consider the matter not yet settled & done with, keep in good heart and not give up. I chose the latter," wrote Vincent on 3 November. With Vincent determined to win over Kee, his relationship with his parents continued to deteriorate until he was forced to leave, taking up residence once again in The Hague in January 1882.

Here, things went from bad to worse. Having started studying under celebrated watercolourist Anton Mauve the year before, Vincent's mentor encouraged Vincent to devote himself to figure



After his death in 1891, Theo was laid to rest next to his elder brother in Auvers-sur-Oise



In July 1962, three letters written by Vincent to his landlord in 1883 were sold for £1,200 to an unidentified buyer

Van Gogh And Britain

Carol Jacobi, curator of the Tate Britain's newest exhibition, explains how Vincent's early years in England shaped him

How important was his time in Britain?

Very - Van Gogh brought ideas from many places into his work, including Britain. His three years as a young art dealer, and later a teacher, introduced him to the London art world and when, four years after he left, he told his brother that he still felt, "Homesick for the country of paintings," Theo suggested he become an artist himself.

What made Britain so appealing to him?

It was realism. British art and literature was distinctive for a new realism relevant to the fast-changing, modern world and for more egalitarian forms of art aimed at wider audiences. Van Gogh was devoted to Dickens before he arrived and mentions hundreds of realist books in his letters by British and European writers throughout his life. He also admired Gustave Doré's "terrifying truthfulness", the Pre-Raphaelites natural symbolism, such as Millais' *Chill October*, and the Social Realist artists who were, like Dickens, finding a vivid poetry in everyday lives. Their "a reality more real than reality" and "personally intimate" quality, as Van Gogh described it, inspired him in his early days, when he decided to make art "from the people for the

people" and collected thousands of prints to study from. In the second half of his career in France, prints from Japan became his main enthusiasm, but he continued to think of his favourite British art to the end of his life, as we see in his large oil 'translation' of Doré's engraving *Exercise Yard, Newgate* made in the asylum, with its English title, *At Eternity's Gate*.

What changed for him?

As an employee of Goupil & Cie, Van Gogh lived in a suburb (Stockwell/Brixton), commuted each day in his top hat, and earned a middle-class salary; he enjoyed middle-class expectations of life, getting on in the firm and perhaps romance and marriage, and middle-class pastimes at weekends, such as visiting parks and galleries. He even rowed on the Thames. After a little over a year in London, after he turned 21, Van Gogh's letters reveal a change, becoming more melancholy and religious. In the midst of London's prosperity and energy as the centre of empire, industry and world trade, there were the exploited, the excluded and the poor, already being written about by authors such as Dickens and campaigners for social reform. Van Gogh's extensive walks took him through the slums

and he encountered Christian socialist ideas in books by Thomas Carlyle, George Eliot and others. He no longer enjoyed his role at Goupil - in fact, a few months later they sent him to Paris and then let him go, and he determined to find some kind of urban missionary role. This led him to teaching in Ramsgate and Isleworth, [working in] a bookshop back home in Netherlands, later studying theology, [then working in] a ministry in Belgium, and ultimately to be disillusioned with religion and turn to the spiritual fulfilment he found in art.

What can we expect from the exhibition?

Fifty Van Gogh paintings plus many of his prints, and British works that inspired him and were inspired by him, from Constable to Bacon. The exhibition is a chance to see British culture through Van Gogh's eyes and Van Gogh through the eyes of British artists and our changing times.

The EY Exhibition: Van Gogh and Britain runs at the Tate Britain from 27 March - 11 August 2019. Tickets are £22, with concessions available. Visit www.tate.org.uk for more information.

studies. Mauve, however, had not anticipated Vincent taking up with one of his models, a pregnant prostitute called Sien Hoornik. "I met Mauve today and had a most regrettable conversation with him," Vincent explained to Theo in May 1882, eventually revealing that "in the end he said, 'You have a vicious character.'" Mauve wasn't the only person to condemn Vincent's relationship with Sien, and Theo himself expressed dismay at his brother's situation - particularly when it came out that Vincent planned to marry her. "I will not deceive or forsake a woman," retorted Vincent to Theo later that month. Indeed, Vincent was willing to forego his brother's monthly stipend to stay with Sien: "Were I to be told for certain that you are withdrawing your support, I should be rendered powerless... If this dreadful fate has to befall me - so be it. I can say nothing other than: I have pledged [Sien] my troth and she has pledged me hers."

It was a blessing that Theo continued to finance his brother's career; after being released from hospital for gonorrhoea treatment in July 1882, Vincent began to dabble with oil paints. This was a decidedly different medium to the sketches and watercolours that Vincent was used to, and while he felt that he was achieving a more pleasing, saleable result, his expenditure began to soar: "Though I myself enjoy doing it immensely, the heavy expenses will probably prevent me for the time being from doing as much painting as my ambition and inclination demand" (August 1882).



Vincent van Gogh

As the year rolled over, Vincent found his domestic life with Sien limiting his artistic output. He longed to leave The Hague, and by autumn he travelled to Drenthe, but he was plagued by guilt for abandoning her, as he described to his brother in early October: "I know that she is no good, that I have every right to do as I am doing, that I could not stay with her there, that I really could not take her with me... but that doesn't alter the fact that it cuts right through me."

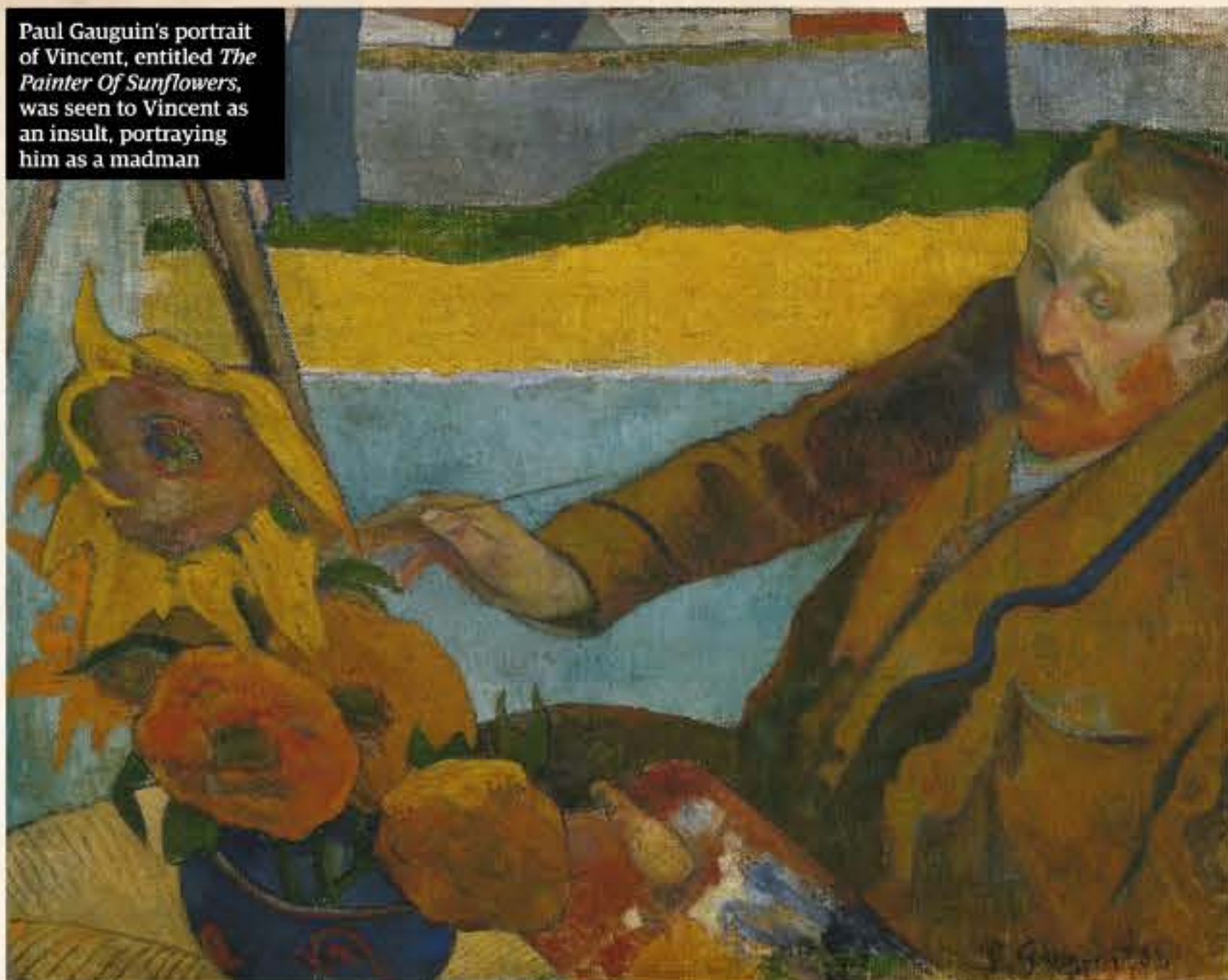
After several months in Drenthe, Vincent returned to live with his parents, taking up his own studio. Despite the death of his father in 1885, Vincent continued to work diligently, and by spring he was on the brink of completing his first 'masterpiece', *The Potato Eaters*. In a letter dated 30 April 1885, his excitement was palpable: "It might just turn out to be a genuine peasant painting. I know that it is. But anyone who prefers to have his peasants looking namby-pamby had best suit himself."

In March 1886, Vincent travelled to Paris to live with Theo, where he not only became acquainted with new artistic trends, but where he became close to several artists, including Émile Bernard, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Paul Gauguin. Few letters exist from the period, but Vincent continued to struggle financially, painting dozens of self-portraits to make up for the shortage of affordable models. Despite the hardships of Parisian life, Vincent and Theo's relationship was rejuvenated, as Vincent admitted in a letter to his sister, Wilhelmina, in the summer of 1887: "If I didn't have Theo, I should not be able to do justice to my work, but having him for a friend, I'm sure I shall make progress and things will fall into place." He went on to admit, "As soon as possible, I plan to spend some time in the south, where there is even more colour and even more sun."

"When I left Paris I was in a sorry state, quite ill and almost an alcoholic," Vincent revealed in a letter to Gauguin on 3 October 1888. Indeed, in February Vincent had moved south, where he spent his first weeks recuperating during unseasonably bad weather. Once the weather cleared, however, Vincent fell in love with the climate and countryside. "I have never had such luck before, nature here is extraordinarily beautiful. Everything and everywhere," he wrote in September. It was here that Vincent acquired the Yellow House, where he envisioned an artists' commune with himself and "a first-rate painter" - Gauguin - as permanent residents.

Vincent began to paint in earnest, determined to plaster the walls of the Yellow House with paintings of people and sunflowers. To Vincent's elation, Gauguin arrived in Arles in October. At first the pair seemed to work well together, but cracks quickly began to appear. By December the situation was tense, with the artists frequently bickering. By this point, Vincent's mood was low, and on 23 December 1888, Vincent penned a quick note to his brother, stating, "I think that Gauguin was a little disenchanted with the good

Paul Gauguin's portrait of Vincent, entitled *The Painter Of Sunflowers*, was seen to Vincent as an insult, portraying him as a madman



"Vincent painted many self-portraits to make up for the shortage of affordable models"



Upon moving to Arles, Van Gogh painted Joseph Roulin, the postman, describing him in a letter to his sister as having "a head a bit like Socrates, almost no nose, a high forehead, bald crown small grey eyes, highly coloured plump cheeks, a big pepper-and-salt beard, large ears"



"Gauguin was telling me the other day that he had seen a picture by Claude Monet of sunflowers in a large Japanese vase, very fine, but - he likes mine better," wrote Vincent to Theo in December 1888



Of *Wheatfield With A Reaper*, Vincent wrote, "there is no sadness in this death, this one takes place in broad daylight with a sun flooding everything with a light of pure gold"

A Fatal Inheritance

Vincent wasn't the only sibling to suffer from mental health problems

Vincent might've catapulted to infamy after the fallout from his row with Gauguin, but what exactly afflicted this so-called 'tortured genius'? Several historians have projected their own diagnoses on the artist, but it's impossible to know exactly what Vincent suffered. In 1888 his doctor in Arles claimed that he suffered from

epilepsy and "acute mania with generalised delirium". Epilepsy was little understood at the time, and could've been referencing any number of symptoms. More recent – and likely – theories include manic depression, as well as potential symptoms of syphilis. However, Vincent wasn't the only Van Gogh to be plagued by

mental health issues. According to one of Vincent's letters, there were "many cases in the family". In May 1888, months before the fateful argument between artists, Vincent wrote to Theo, claiming, "[Our ailment] is a fatal inheritance, since in civilisation the weakness increases from generation to generation."

Theodorus van Gogh 1822-1885

Born on 8 February 1822, Vincent's father was a pastor for the Dutch Reformed Church. Theodorus and Vincent had a tense relationship, with Vincent believing that he was a disappointment to his father. Theodorus suffered a stroke and died in 1885.

Anna Carbentus 1819-1907

Anna was born on 10 September 1819. At the age of 30 and with few marriage prospects, she was set up with her young sister's brother-in-law, Theodorus. The match was well-suited and the pair married in 1851. She instilled a passion for art in Vincent.

Vincent 1852-1852

The first son of Theodorus and Anna was a stillborn son named Vincent after Theodorus's father and brother. As well as sharing a name, the two Vincents shared the exact same birth date, one year apart.

Anna 1855-1930

The eldest daughter of Theodorus and Anna was as skilled a linguist as her brother, living for a time in England where she taught French. Vincent and Anna were not close, and after their father's death, the pair were estranged.

Elisabeth 1859-1936

Elisabeth, nicknamed Lies, was – like her siblings – creative, and became a published poet in 1908. Two years later, she rose to prominence with her book *Vincent Van Gogh: Personal Reminiscences of an Artist*.

Cornelius 1867-1900

The youngest Van Gogh took up a position in engineering. He died in 1900, though reports differ on how – some claim he was killed in action in the Anglo-Boer war, while others state that he committed suicide.

Vincent 1853-1890

In his childhood Vincent was misunderstood among his family and was prone to "melancholy," as he referred to it in his letters. He was hospitalised for gonorrhea in 1882 and might have suffered from syphilis, too.

Theodorus 1857-1891

Four years younger than his brother, Theo became Vincent's closest friend and confidant. Theo suffered from the same "melancholy" that afflicted his brother – and according to his doctor, Theo suffered it worse than Vincent.

Wilhelmina 1862-1941

After his brother Theo, Vincent was closest to his youngest sister, Wil. After her brother's death, her mental health began to decline and in 1902 she was placed in a psychiatric hospital, where she died almost 40 years later.

town of Arles, the little yellow house where we work, and above all with me." That fateful evening, Vincent allegedly attempted to attack Gauguin with a razor. Gauguin stormed away and, in a fit of rage, Vincent cut off his own ear, wrapped it in newspaper and gave it to a prostitute at his local brothel. The next day, he remembered little of what had happened.

In the wake of Vincent's mental breakdown, he was placed in a hospital, where he remained until early January. He attempted to return to the Yellow House but, frightened by the events of 23 December, the locals had petitioned to keep him away, and Vincent's home was sealed and guarded by police. Despite this, Vincent continued to paint, explaining to Theo in February 1889 that "The work takes my mind off things, or rather keeps me in order."

In May 1889, fearing another major relapse, Vincent voluntarily entered the asylum in Saint-Rémy, where he continued to paint in an unused room. "I am struggling with all my might to keep

my work under control by telling myself that success would be the best lightning conductor for my illness," Vincent wrote to Theo at the start of September 1889. Indeed, it was here in Saint-Rémy where Vincent painted some of his most poignant works, including *The Starry Night* and *Irises*.

By early 1890, Vincent's status as an artist was finally taking off, and an article about Vincent's art by Albert Aurier in *Le Mercure de France* propelled Vincent into the public eye. From Saint-Rémy, Vincent wrote to Aurier in February, claiming "I encounter my canvases anew in your article, but better than they are in reality, richer, more meaningful." The following month, ten of Vincent's paintings starred in the Salon des Indépendants in Paris.

Almost a year after entering the asylum, Vincent left. On 16 May he travelled to Paris and then on to Auvers-sur-Oise, where he'd been recommended to seek out Doctor Gachet. "I have found a perfect friend in Dr Gachet, something like another brother – so alike are we physically, and mentally,

too. He is very nervous and most odd himself," Vincent explained to Wilhelmina in June.

But with the fear of more breakdowns hanging over his head, and the worry of being a financial burden on his brother and his growing family, Vincent's mood remained bleak. In his last letter to Theo, dated 24 July 1890, Vincent wrote "I should try, perhaps, to write to you about a great many things, but in the first place I have completely lost the inclination, and then, it seems useless to me." Three days later Vincent shot himself. Though he survived the initial shot and managed to stumble back to his room at the Ravoux Inn, he eventually succumbed to his injury, dying in the arms of Theo, his closest companion to the very end.

On 30 July 1890, Vincent van Gogh was buried in the cemetery in Auvers-sur-Oise in a ceremony attended by friends and family. In an account of it, Émile Bernard wrote, "Theodorus van Gogh is broken by grief". Theo never truly recovered after Vincent's death and, plagued by health problems, he died less than six months later.

WWII's

WEIRDEST INVENTIONS

We take a closer look at some of the strangest things the Allied and Axis powers came up with to take on their adversaries

Written by Jonathan Gordon

Throughout human history, wars have been a cauldron for invention. In fact, hardship of any kind can lead to new concepts and ways of thinking to emerge and World War II had no shortage of hardship or inventiveness, some of the latter being as devastating and diabolical as the planet had ever seen. Here however, we thought we would concentrate on some of the stranger concepts. Whether successful or not, the tools and weapons we have chosen display a kind of outside of the box thinking or disregard for convention that can so often lead to great ideas.

More often than not, the things that stood in the way of these inventions really making an impact was a lack of resources or being slightly too far outside the realms of possibility for technology at that time. From giant weapons that dwarfed the battlefield to funny ways of rethinking the tank, even the ideas that were failures have gone on to be adapted or reborn as entirely new devices and innovations that continue to affect our lives and have a massive impact on modern fields of battle. So, let's take a look at some of WWII's stranger contributions to military tactics.

GUSTAV RAILWAY GUN

The biggest gun ever made

Made by: Germany **Date:** July 1942

The thinking behind the Gustav gun doesn't appear to have been too sophisticated. It was big. Very big. The barrel alone was over 47 metres long and the whole machine weighed around 1,350 tonnes. The reason it was so big was that it was needed to break through the defences of the heavily fortified Maginot Line and that meant munitions of a size and weight previously unheard of.

The gun itself was originally commissioned in 1934 by the German Army from Krupp AG, a leading arms manufacturer. It was requested to be completed by the spring of 1940

to launch an assault on the Maginot Line and begin the invasion of France. However, complications in its construction meant it wasn't ready for test firing until 1941 and was first deployed in Sevastopol in early 1942.

While Sevastopol was devastated by the German offensive, the Gustav only fired 48 rounds before it wore out its barrel (it had fired 250 in testing already). It also needed 4,000 men to move it into position and 500 men to fire it. After a brief appearance in Warsaw in 1944 to quell an uprising, the gun appears to have been scrapped to avoid its being captured.



DID IT WORK?

It certainly packed a punch, but it was used sparingly and wasn't actually built in time to do the job it was meant to.

Practicality	●●●●●○○○○○
Innovation	●●●●●○○○○○
Expense	●●●●●○○○○○
Weirdness	●●●●●○○○○○



SHERMAN CRAB

Enter the mine flail

Made by: Britain **Date:** 1944

DID IT WORK?

The Sherman Crab was pretty effective and was deployed from 1944 as the Allies advanced on Axis positions in Europe.

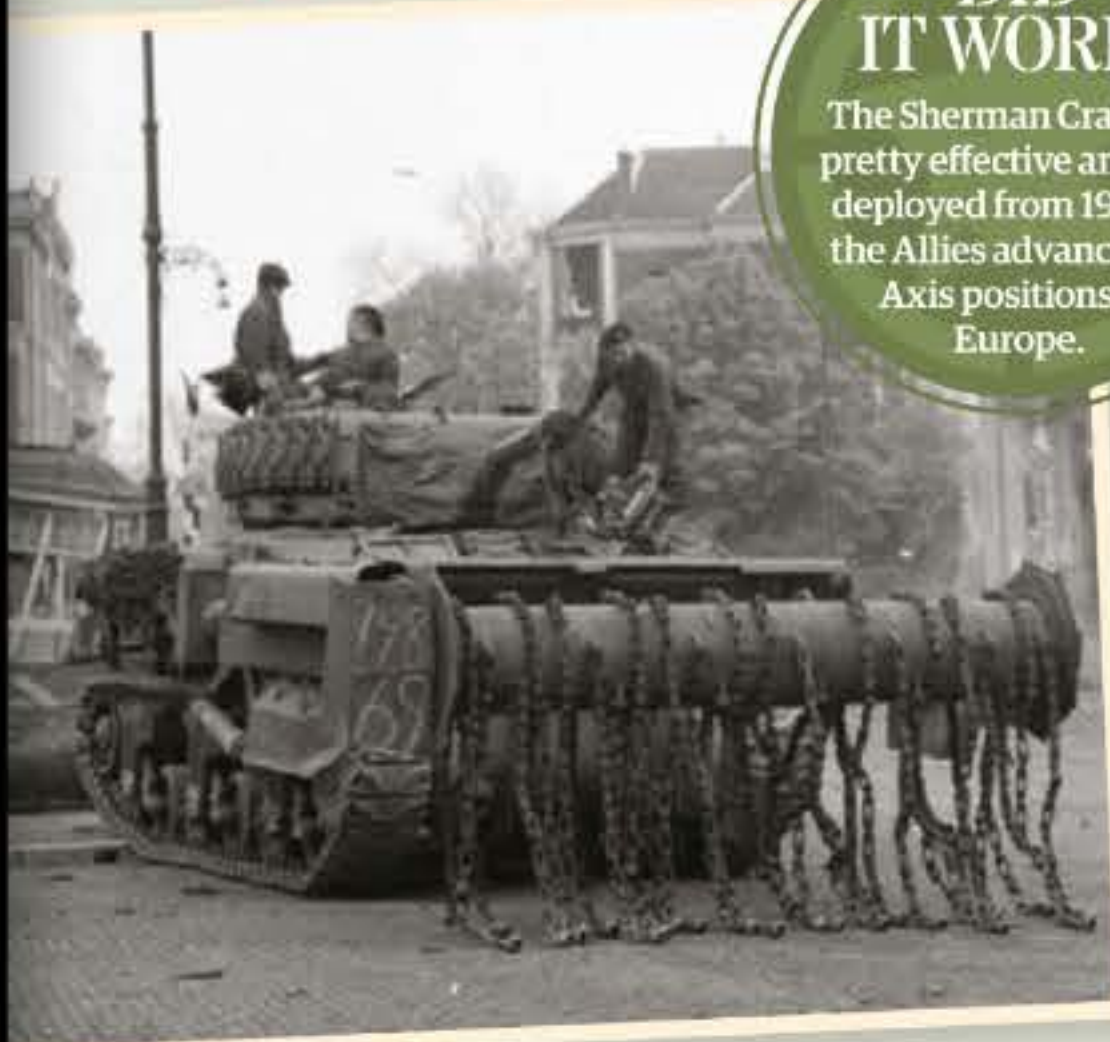
The idea of having a tank mounted with a rotating cylinder with chains attached to it that could detonate mines ahead of it to clear a path for other resources had been kicked around for some time in British circles before it came into full affect with the Sherman Crab. South African Captain Abraham du Toit is credited with the original concept of mounting such a device on the front of a tank and shared the idea with other mechanical engineers before heading to Britain to develop it further.

As it happened, multiple parallel schemes for this concept were in development from 1942, with the Sherman Crab ultimately endorsed and requested for production by General Hobart. While Du Toit's own thinking called for a flail powered by

its own engine, the Crab's flail was linked to its main engine. It was also fitted with cutters on the rotor so that it could munch through barbed wire.

It was not without its issues though, as the flails could become tangled (something that was improved with later design upgrades) and it could only move at 2kph while it was clearing mines. It could also only catch so many mines and the chains could be blown off in the process, requiring repair down the line. In 1948 Du Toit received £13,000 from the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors for his contribution to the war effort for the initial concept and development.

Practicality	●●●●●○○○○○
Innovation	●●●●●○○○○○
Expense	●●●●●○○○○○
Weirdness	●●●●●○○○○○



Odd battle ideas



DID IT WORK?

Not really. While plenty were made and used often, they had rather a lot of shortcomings.

GOLIATH TANK

Mighty name, small stature

Made by: Germany **Date:** Early 1942

Nicknamed the Doodlebug by American forces, the Goliath tanks were deceptively named since they were actually small, single-use remote controlled vehicles that could be driven close to Allied tanks or camps and detonated. Powered either with an electric or petrol engine (then later a two-cylinder motorcycle engine) the Goliath was deployed against a specific target via a control box connected with a wire, allowing it to be steered. It was mostly used for blowing up enemy defences or mine clearance although it could also be used against tanks and had a range of 650 metres. More than 7,500 Goliaths were produced and it would go on to inspire remote controlled devices in the post-war years. However, they were expensive, which given they could only be used once made them very inefficient. They were also very slow, moving at less than 10kph, which meant that unless a tank was stationary it was unlikely to ever catch up with one. The limited range of the cable was also a hindrance, as was the fact it could simply be cut to make the Goliath inoperable. Even then, its thin armour meant it was very vulnerable even to small arms fire.

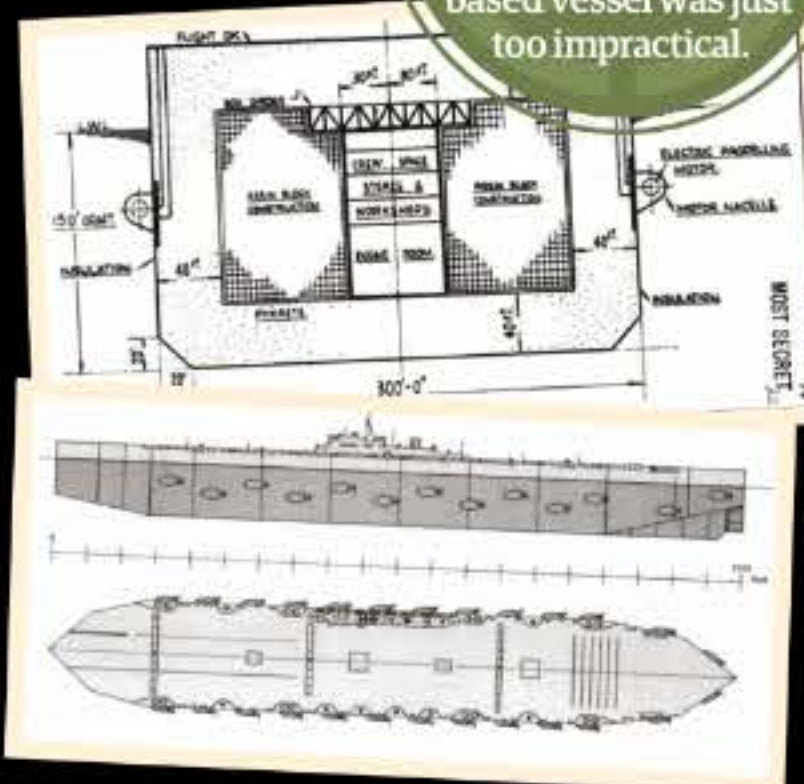
Practicality ●●●●●○○○○○
Innovation ●●●●●○○○○○
Expense ●●●●●○○○○○
Weirdness ●●●●●○○○○○

PROJECT HABAKKUK

The iceberg aircraft carrier

Made by: Britain **Date:** 1943

In an attempt to remedy the issue of limited steel and aluminium supplies with which to build new ships, Geoffrey Pyke pitched a rather innovative idea: aircraft carriers made from ice. His proposal was to use an iceberg, whether naturally forming or manufactured, flatten it and hollow it out, and use it as a means for aircraft to be transported and deployed on the ocean. Pyke began work with Austrian biologist Max Perutz to devise a way to use a glacier to build a ship, although they found that ice would crack under its own weight for the sizes they would need. The discovery of pykrete, a mixture of wood pulp and ice, turned a fanciful notion into something plausible, with a prototype built in Patricia Lake, Alberta, Canada. The pykrete was buoyant and very strong, but still needed insulation and cooling. To keep the ice from melting a refrigeration system was needed to keep it running, although the prototype took three summers to melt in Patricia Lake.



Practicality ●○○○○○○○○○
Innovation ●●●●●●●●●○
Expense ●●●●●○○○○○
Weirdness ●●●●●●●●●○

DID IT WORK?

Not at all. For all that it was an innovative idea, maintaining an ice-based vessel was just too impractical.

THE NELLIE

A rabbit out of Churchill's hat

Made by: Britain **Date:** 1939



Practicality ●●●○○○○○○○
Innovation ●●●●●○○○○○
Expense ●●●●●○○○○○
Weirdness ●●●●●○○○○○

As war in Europe was commencing again, minds naturally returned to the years of conflict just a couple of decades previous and the toil that the Great War involved. But in those intervening years technology had advanced greatly and new solutions to the challenges of that war could now be found. As First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill was in charge of some of these ideas, one of which was 'White Rabbit', a trench-digging machine that could dig ahead of a column of infantry and move the trench lines without endangering troops. Codenamed Cultivator No 6 and later moved to the Ministry of Supply division for Naval Land Equipment (NLE), it picked up the name Nellie. Using two twelve-cylinder, high speed diesel engines, the Nellie became something of a beast, unable to be carried by conventional transport into the field. For all that though, by 1940 it was becoming clear that smaller, fast moving tanks were making trench warfare redundant. As clever as the Nellie could have been, it didn't really have a place in this conflict.

DID IT WORK?

33 Nellies were made by 1941, but by 1943 the project was cancelled, although a handful were retained.

WILDLIFE AT WAR

Even the animal kingdom wasn't safe from WWII's strangest ideas

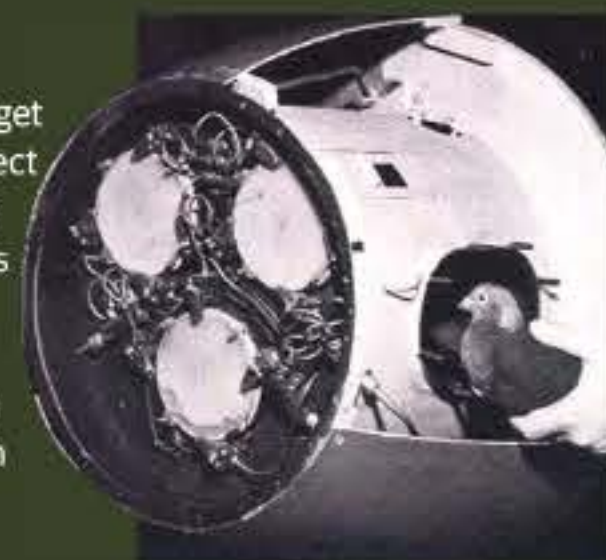
ANTI-TANK DOGS

This is a pretty famous one as the Soviet Union first trained dogs to approach tanks and drop bombs beneath them, and then turned to a triggered device that detonated a bomb strapped to a dog when the original plan didn't work. Trained dogs did this from 1941 to '42, but were not terribly effective. Some were killed before reaching tanks, some detonated returning to the Soviet lines and some went towards Soviet tanks since that is what they originally trained with.



PIGEON MISSILE

Could pigeons be trained to recognise a target and use their natural homing abilities to direct ordinance on target? That was the question asked by BF Skinner in the US. With screens that projected images from outside into compartments in the missile, the pigeons were expected to peck on the screen when they saw the correct location, moving when the image left the centre and in so doing keeping the missile on target.



YOKOSUKA MXY-7 OHKA

Rocket-fuelled cherry blossom

Made by: Japan **Date:** 1945

As US forces advanced on Japanese positions in the Pacific and the Japanese government worked to hold them off, kamikaze attacks were becoming more and more common from 1944 onwards. By 1945 a new and even more devastating form of suicide fighter was devised by Ensign Mitsuo Ohta with the help of the Aeronautical Research Institute of the University of Tokyo. What would

become the Ohka (which translates to 'cherry blossom') was a single-seater, rocket-propelled bomb. However, since it needed to be deployed at short range it did not necessarily need a highly experienced pilot to control it. Most typically attached to a Mitsubishi G4M 'Betty' Bomber, the Ohka was taken to its destination, released, needed gliding to aim at its desired naval target

and would then activate its three rockets to dive. It could reach speeds of nearly 1,000kph in a full dive. This speed meant ships had little time to react. However, not long after their deployment in April 1945, US forces realised they had to take out the Bettys to avoid the issue and while some ships were lost or damaged early on, fewer and fewer were harmed in the following days.

Practicality	●●●○○○○○○○
Innovation	●●●●●○○○○○
Expense	●●●●○○○○○○○
Weirdness	●●●●●○○○○○

DID IT WORK?

No. US Navy tactics to pick off the planes carrying the Ohkas meant they were very ineffective in the field.

BAT BOMBS

Another US concept was using bats with incendiary devices attached to them to start fires in Japan. A shell casing with over one thousand compartments would be filled with hibernating bats, each strapped with a timed bomb. As the shell fell, a parachute would eventually deploy, opening up the outer casing and releasing the bats from their compartments, where they would then seek shelter in the woods or eaves of buildings. Tests suggested it might prove effective, but the project was canned when it became clear it wouldn't be ready until mid-1945.



EXPLODING RATS

A rather devious concept conceived by the British Special Operations Executive, the idea was to fill dead rats with plastic explosives and leave them around boiler rooms in Germany. The hope was that they would then be disposed of in the furnace and explode. That alone might have proved rather small, but if it in turn caused a boiler explosion then the damage would be extensive. The scheme didn't get far though as the first shipment was intercepted by the Germans, but their continued hunt for booby-trapped rodents meant a lot of wasted resources.

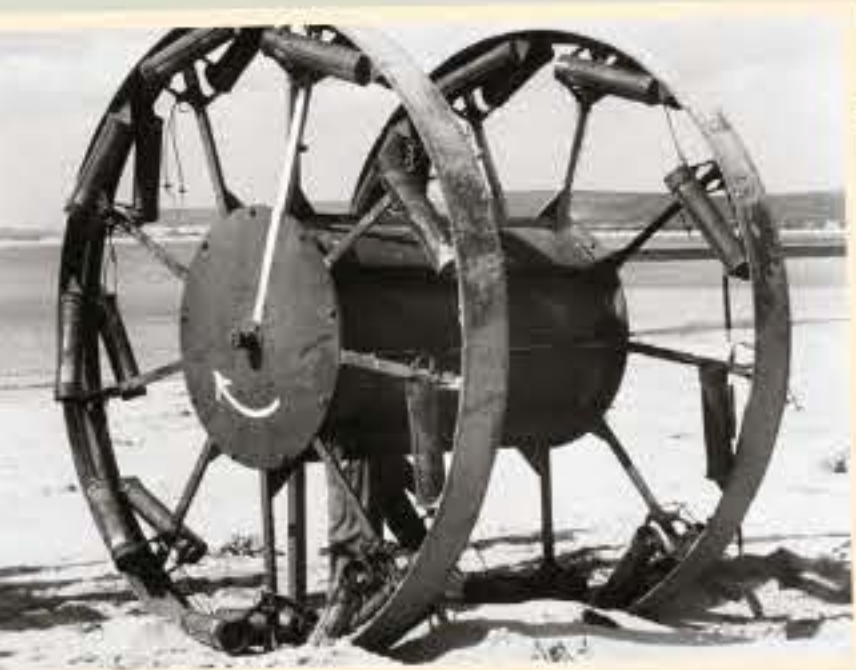


PANZER VIII MAUS

The 200 tonne tank

Made by: Germany **Date:** July 1944

What was it with Nazi Germany and big things? Perhaps that's a question to be explored at another time, but like so many of the attempted super weapons of the Axis forces, this was perhaps too large for its own good. The Maus was a massive new tank, the biggest created at that time, weighing a massive 188 tonnes with armour 200mm deep at its thickest points. The intention was for it to be a battering ram against the enemy lines, punching holes through anything that the Allies could throw against it and barely taking a scratch in the process. There were a number of issues, however, not least that actually getting the thing to move with an engine that could actually fit inside the tank was a challenge. Several engines were tried, but it only ever reached a max speed of 20kph. Then there was the fact that with its immense weight it couldn't use any bridges, but this led to it becoming submergible with a pressurised cabin. While five were originally ordered, only two prototypes were completed and even then only one gun to mount on them, and not long after this happened the Soviet Army captured the testing ground for the Maus in Böblingen.



THE GREAT PANJANDRUM

Pinwheel of death

Made by: Britain **Date:** 1944

It was 1943 and the plans for the invasion of mainland Europe by Allied forces were taking shape at pace. There were a few logistical problems, though, with the plan for sea-based landings on the west coast of Europe, not least the Atlantic Wall defences that stretched down the coast of Norway to the border between France and Spain. The Allies needed something that could launch from the landing vessels without assistance from personnel (who would be taking fire), could scale the beaches and blow a hole in the defences big enough for a tank to pass through. Enter the Panjandrum, a 1 tonne bomb contained in a drum between two wooden wheels, ten-feet in diameter, fitted with cordite rockets that

propel the device forward. While this device was supposed to be secret, it was tested on a public beach in Devon where crowds gathered to watch despite safety warnings. While the Panjandrum seemed to get from boat to shore fairly well, it kept turning uncontrollably afterwards, sometimes losing rockets that shot off in all directions. Despite several attempts to vary the number of rockets and adding a third, central wheel to stabilise, it simply wouldn't stay on course.

Practicality ●●●○○○○○○○○
Innovation ●●●●●○○○○○○
Expense ●●●○○○○○○○○
Weirdness ●●●●●○○○○○○



DID IT WORK?

It was perhaps beginning to, but the massive issues the Maus faced meant it was never field ready.

Practicality ●●●○○○○○○○○
Innovation ●●●●●○○○○○○
Expense ●●●○○○○○○○○
Weirdness ●●●●●○○○○○○

DID IT WORK?

The Allies never found a way to stabilise the Panjandrum, so it was abandoned just before the Normandy landings.

THE SUN GUN

Was this WWII's most bizarre plan?

If you're looking for a crazy invention that seems like something that belongs in a Bond film rather than in the history books then we should look no further than the Sonnengewehr or Sun Gun. The original sun gun proposed by German physicist Hermann Oberth in 1929 would have involved a 100-metre wide concave mirror being placed into orbit around the Earth, able to reflect concentrated sunlight back on a desired target.

During World War II, the concept was revived by the German Army Artillery who expanded the idea to include a space station that would orbit 8,200km above the planet attached to a 'mirror' made of metallic sodium stretching nine square kilometres, manoeuvred by thruster rockets to find its target. They thought that at this size it could burn a city or boil an ocean. Not surprisingly, this ambitious super weapon was never attempted and it was estimated by German scientists that it might take another 50 to 100 years to perfect the technology needed.



AVRE BOBBIN

The carpet layer Made by: Britain Date: 1944

The plans for a beach landing on D-Day were gathering pace and new concepts for how to deal with every conceivable challenge the forces might face were being thrown at the wall. A previous attempt at a beach landing at Dieppe had shown a lot of the potential shortcomings, such as not being able to get tanks in position to offer cover to ground troops. Some tanks simply hadn't been able to move on the shingle surface. While some teams worked on explosive wheels to punch through defences and others looked to clear minefields, this Assault Vehicle Royal Engineers tank had the very simple task of laying a carpet down for the following tanks. The Bobbin, named after the spindle of canvas it carried between two steel arms, was intended to ride ahead of a tank column as they mounted the beach, giving them a more consistent surface to drive on and hopefully prevent them from sinking into the sand. Further tanks that carried wood or were partially amphibious were also designed under

the command of Major General Percy Hobart, from which the term Hobart's Funnies has been derived. They certainly were peculiar, but also rather ingenious.

Practicality	●●●●●●●●○○
Innovation	●●●●●●○○○○
Expense	●●●●○○○○○○
Weirdness	●●●●●●●○○○



DID IT WORK?

Pretty much. The original canvas matting meant that the paths were not very durable, but reinforcement upgrades helped down the line.



FU-GO BALLOON BOMB

An intercontinental weapon

Made by: Japan Date: 1944

The United States had entered the war, but while so many other nations involved were seeing their major cities attacked and infrastructure decimated, Americans were relatively well protected by the expanse of ocean between it and the enemy both East and West. Still, the Japanese needed to do something to quell the advance of American troops and the concept of free-floating, unmanned balloons packed with explosives that would use the naturally occurring jet stream over the Pacific to reach the US was taken up. The Fu-Go bombs, made from paper and glued together with potato flour, would float to America and strike fear into the population, damaging buildings with high-explosive bombs and starting fires with thermite bombs with no way of knowing where they would go. At least, that was the theory. Only a fraction even reached America, casualties were very low and the national panic that Japan hoped they would create never emerged. They were however a type of intercontinental weapon the likes of which hadn't been attempted before, a concept that would go on to dominate the post-war arms race.


Practicality	●●●○○○○○○○○
Innovation	●●●●●○○○○○
Expense	●●●○○○○○○○○
Weirdness	●●●●●●●○○○

DID IT WORK?

With only a handful of casualties, the balloons didn't cause the national panic Japan had hoped.





The background of the page is a painting. It shows a woman's arm and hand, wearing a red dress with a white cuff, pointing towards a landscape. The landscape is a hazy, green valley with trees and hills in the distance. The sky is a pale blue.

Queen Anne's real 'favourite'

The Favourite is drawing audiences to the lesser-known time period of Queen Anne, but what's the real story behind the rise and fall of Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough?

Written by Andrea Zuvich


Sarah Churchill

The *Favourite* is loosely based on the relationships and political machinations between Queen Anne, who reigned from 1702-1714, her best friend of several decades, Sarah, 1st Duchess of Marlborough, and the plucky newcomer, Sarah's cousin, Abigail Hill. But, for all its striking costumes, impressive acting, and stunning filming locations, it is not the most historically accurate portrayal of these historical figures. *The Favourite* suggests providing Queen Anne with sexual pleasure and friendship was the best, or even the only, way for women to achieve power and political control in the sometimes volatile world of early 18th-century government. Let's have a look at who the real people of *The Favourite* were, and in particular, Sarah Churchill, the formidable 1st Duchess of Marlborough.

Sarah Jennings was a bright blue-eyed, blonde beauty who came to the court of Charles II around the age of 12, having already been a playmate of the Princesses of York - Mary and Anne - for some years. Sarah's elder sister, Frances (or Fanny) Jennings, had been at court longer, and was widely considered to be a court beauty. Sarah was involved in many aspects of court life, including the 1675 masque, *Calisto* - which she acted in along with Anne and other court ladies. Around this time, Sarah began to befriend the very shy yet stubborn Princess Anne, five years her junior. Usually eclipsed by her beautiful older sister, Mary, it was of great comfort to Anne to have this radiant, self-possessed older girl notice her. Anne was soon very much under Sarah's thumb - where she would be for several decades to come.

When the 25-year-old John Churchill showed a romantic interest in Sarah, the 15-year-old may have readily given him her heart, but she wouldn't give her body to him as easily. She was shrewd and had seen how love and sexual permissiveness had led other young women at court to their ruin. Not only had they lost their maidenheads (virginity) but they had also wrecked their reputations, and some even bore illegitimate children. Churchill's own sister, Arabella, had by then become James, Duke of York's mistress and given birth to several of his children. Even Fanny was rumoured to have briefly warmed the Duke's bed. Churchill himself had already indulged in a sexual relationship with King Charles II's stunning mistress, Barbara, Lady Castlemaine - who happened to be Churchill's cousin.

Later in life Sarah wrote, "Women signify nothing unless they are the mistress[es] of a Prince or a first Minister, which I would not be if I were young; and there are few, if any women, that have understanding or impartiality enough to serve well those they really wish to serve". If Churchill wanted to bed Sarah, he would be allowed to do so only once they were married. His family



"Anne was soon very much under Sarah's thumb"

Princess Anne and Sarah Jennings actually grew up together at court

Sarah held many important titles in the queen's household including Mistress of the Robes and Keeper of the Privy Purse



A Queen's Sexuality

Was Queen Anne a lesbian?

Many are asking, after seeing *The Favourite*, "Was Queen Anne a lesbian? Did she engage in sex with her favourites?" It's very hard to categorically state the nature of a historical person's sexuality, but the answer is probably not. The rumours and insinuations levelled against the queen and Abigail Masham were more likely due to the political and personal manoeuvrings of a bitter and resentful woman - Sarah Churchill - who was angered by the loss of her powerful status to someone whom she considered as her social inferior (Abigail). At the time, accusing someone of having same-sex relations, particularly when they held so important a political role as someone like Queen Anne, was a common tactic used in order to discredit and ruin a rival. After all, the moral tone of Queen Anne's court was much the same as of that set by the previous monarchs, William and Mary, who had sought to establish the antithesis of the debauched and sexually profligate flavour of the Restoration. The film also largely, if not wholly, omits mention of one of the important people in Anne's life: her beloved husband of 25 years, Prince George of Denmark.

objected to her as his bride, for she was from a poor family. They eloped, however, in 1678, with the consent of the Duchess of York, and their marriage proved to be long, passionate, loving, and fertile. Sarah could be a notoriously difficult person - even her own children generally agreed on that. She was fiercely devoted to the people she loved, and was an equally fierce opponent to her enemies.

Anne already had concerns that her father, King James II, would return England to popery. It was Sarah who, in that crucial year 1688, cemented these concerns in Anne's mind and firmly encouraged the Princess to leave London to side with William of Orange, thus abandoning her father in his hour of need. In 1689, Anne's sister, Mary, and her husband, William, were crowned William III and Mary II. By 1692, however, Mary could see plainly that her sister was regularly manipulated by Sarah, and she wrote to Anne asking her to end the friendship. This led to a terrible row between the sisters - and it certainly had people talking. John Evelyn wrote, "28th February, 1692. Lord Marlborough having used words against the King, and been discharged from all his great places, his wife was forbidden the Court, and the Princess of Denmark was desired by the Queen to dismiss her from her service; but she refusing to do so, goes away from Court to Syon". The two sisters were neither reconciled nor ever met again, for Mary died of smallpox in 1694.

Princess Anne married Prince George of Denmark in 1683. After her marriage to George, Anne made Sarah her Lady of the Bedchamber. It was also during this time that Anne and Sarah began using pseudonyms to refer to one another;

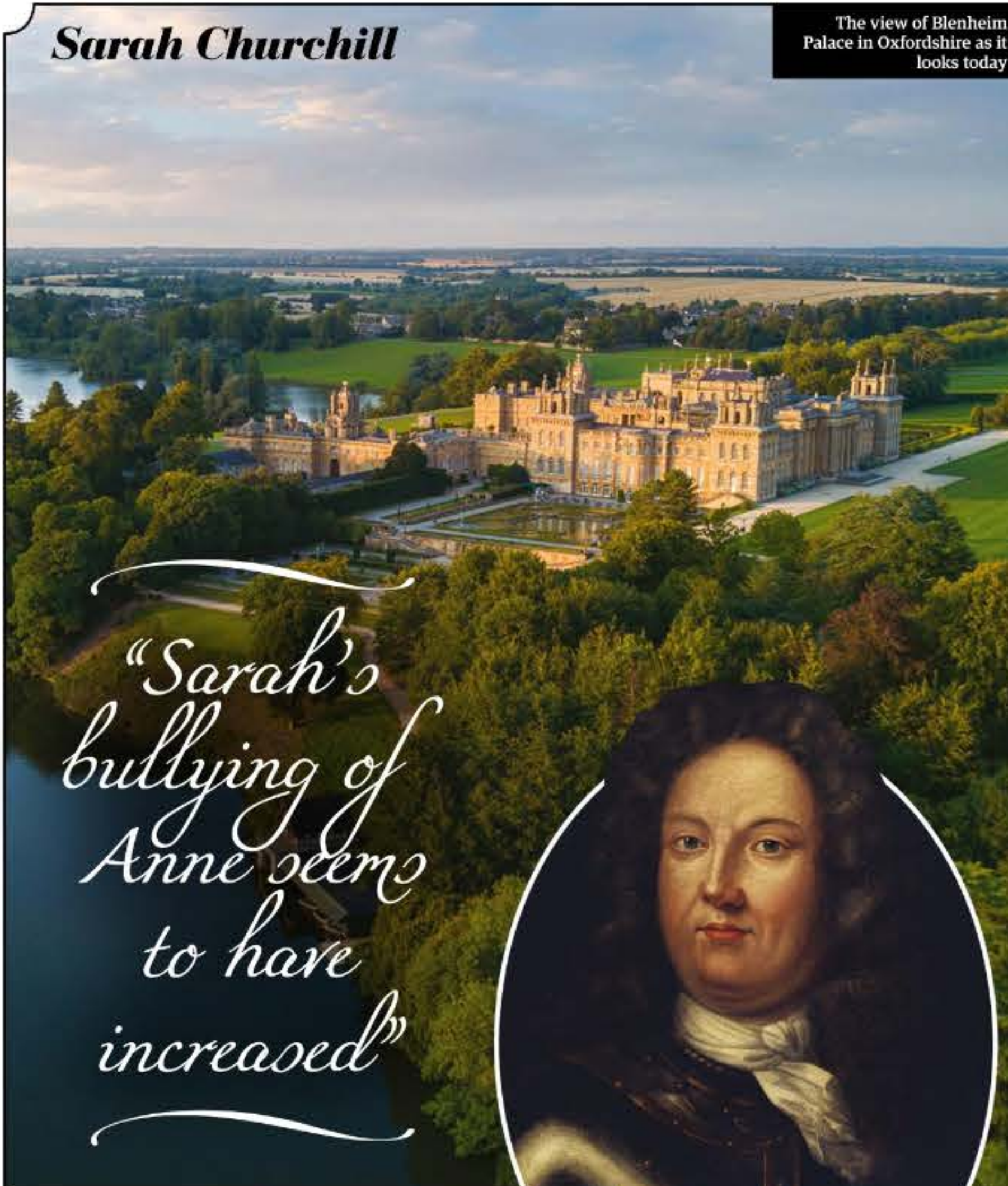
Queen Anne's Real 'Favourite'



Sarah and John Churchill were a real power couple of Anne's court

Sarah and Churchill were "Mr and Mrs Freeman" while Anne and George were "Mr and Mrs Morley". George, "of the Danish countenance, blond, of few words", proved a good husband for Anne, and enjoyed a loving and faithful marriage; but their tragedy stems from the fates that befell their many children. They had between 16 to 18 pregnancies, which ended in miscarriage, stillbirth, or where the child died at a young age from disease. Their longest-living son, the Duke of Gloucester, died in the summer of 1700, at the age of 11. It is often - unfairly - said that Queen Anne was a weak woman; but to lose so many children and not lose one's reason arguably takes great strength. The death of the only Protestant heir was a blow to Anne's hated brother-in-law, William III, too, and it had political repercussions: The Act of Settlement (1700) stated: "The Princess Sophia, Electress and Duchess Dowager of Hanover, Daughter of the late Queen of Bohemia, Daughter of King James the First, to inherit after the King and the Princess Anne, in Default of Issue of the said Princess and His Majesty, respectively and the Heirs of her Body, being Protestants".

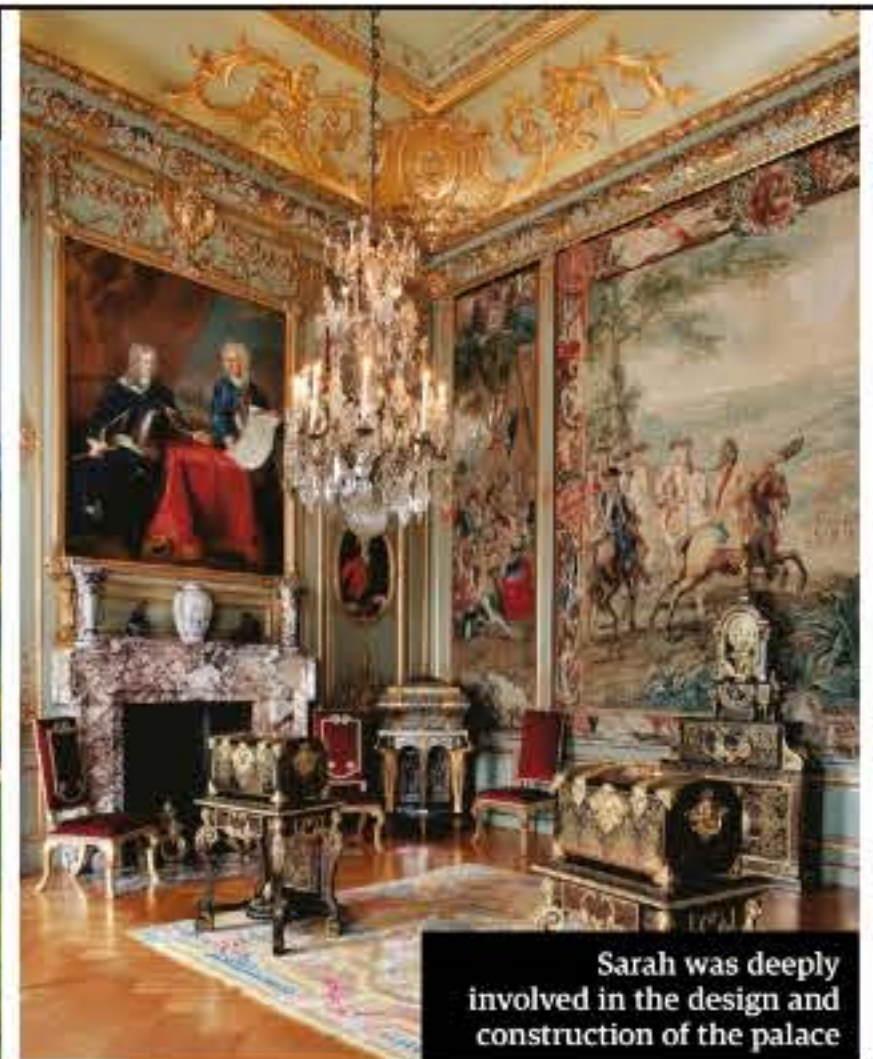
William III died during the winter of 1702, from pneumonia. Within the same year that she became queen, Anne conferred various honours on the Earl of Marlborough, making him Duke of Marlborough and a Knight of the Garter. By 1705, Sarah, now Duchess of Marlborough, was clearly a supporter of the Whig Party, which Anne was not - and this brought added friction to their friendship. At any rate, things had deteriorated in their relationship following the death of the Duke of Gloucester, for from that point on, Sarah's bullying of Anne seems to have increased.



"Sarah's bullying of Anne seems to have increased"



Victory for John Churchill at the Battle of Blenheim secured him in Anne's favour too



Sarah was deeply involved in the design and construction of the palace

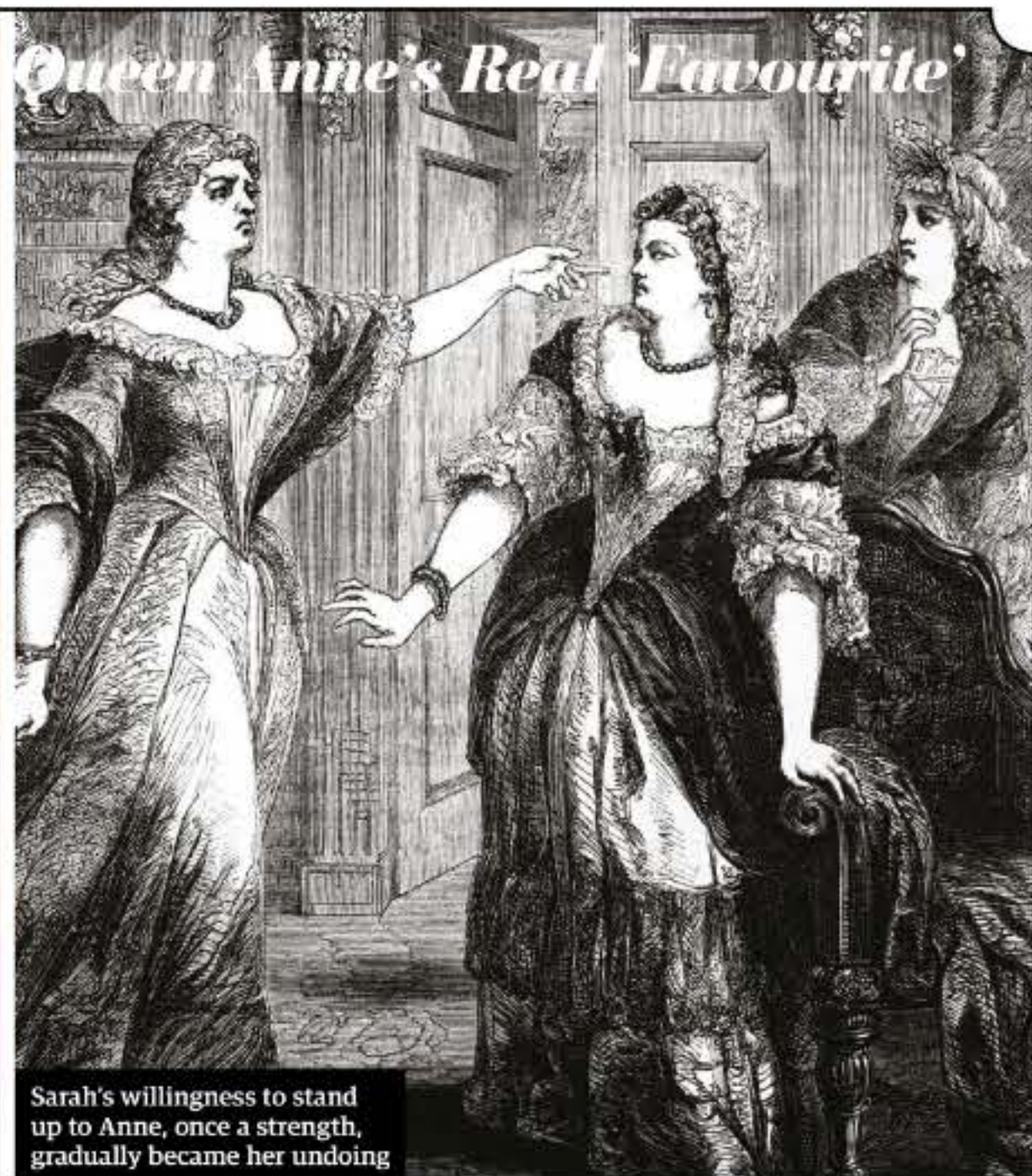
Blenheim Palace

A gift from Queen Anne on behalf of "a grateful nation"

Blenheim Palace, a model of which is presented before Rachel Weisz's Sarah early on in *The Favourite*, really is an extravagant example of the height of Baroque architecture. This impressive building was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor in the early 18th century. Construction began in 1705 and Sarah, very characteristically, ended up involving herself too much in Vanbrugh's work, resulting in rows – especially over the costs. Finally, after finding the duchess far too troublesome, Vanbrugh quit. After the rift with Queen Anne, financing the building of the palace was left to the Churchills. As a testament in stone to the glory and honour that was her husband, she had construction continue until it was finished at last in 1733 – 11 years after Churchill's death. However, Sarah was never particularly happy at Blenheim. In 1736, she wrote: "I never design to see Blenheim again". Nonetheless, to this day Blenheim Palace stands as an impressive monument to the military genius that was John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



A massive restoration project in recent years has revitalised the palace



Sarah's willingness to stand up to Anne, once a strength, gradually became her undoing

How did someone like Abigail Hill rise to the top of Anne's Late Stuart-era court? Who was she, anyway? Abigail Hill, born around 1670, was Sarah's first cousin. Her family was hit hard financially and Abigail and some of her siblings were obliged to go into service. When Sarah was made aware of this situation with her poor relations, she obtained work for some of them in the royal household. Abigail's sister, Alice Hill, was given employment with Anne's son, the Duke of Gloucester, as a laundress. When Queen Anne was a princess during the reign of Charles II, she had a governess, four dressers, one laundress, one seamstress, and a necessary woman. This, of course, was enlarged when she became queen. As a Lady of the Bedchamber, Abigail was in close proximity to the queen. Abigail would not have obtained this position had she not been connected to Sarah, but once she was there, this resourceful woman did her job well, and the queen noticed.

In 1707, while Sarah was absent from court, the queen attended the marriage of Abigail to Samuel Masham, who, although a rather poor baronet, was still considered above her in station. When Sarah found out that this had taken place without her knowledge, she was incensed. Sarah knew that if her power over Anne declined, this would have negative ramifications on her husband, John, and their children's fortunes. But this didn't stop Sarah from being extremely rude to Anne. She still treated her like a little girl, and notoriously told her to "be quiet!" outside St Paul's Cathedral. It is no great wonder, therefore, that someone who feels increasingly hounded, bullied, and disrespected by their best friend, will naturally gravitate to another who is kinder and more obliging. Abigail, although a mere bedchamber woman, increasingly provided the compassionate and deferential treatment that Anne needed. We can't be certain if she was sincere in her behaviour towards Anne, but her technique in handling Queen Anne certainly worked.

In 1708, Prince George died, yet another massive blow to Anne's already greatly bereaved state. In the film, *The Favourite*, Queen Anne is depicted as a very ill woman, distressed by a variety of painful health problems including gout, and suffering from short sightedness. This was certainly true. During her youth, her eyes were considered so poorly, that she was sent away to the French court to have her vision treated by the more experienced eye physicians there. She had survived smallpox when she was 12. Her body had gone through the emotional and physical upheaval of so many pregnancies. These ailments were exacerbated by the fact that she was also overweight, if not obese.

In 1709, a salacious work entitled *Secret Memoirs And Manners Of Several Persons Of Quality* was published in London. Although given fake names, the thinly-veiled Duke and Duchess of Marlborough were mentioned several times, including references to Churchill's past sexual relationship with Barbara Villiers.

As Abigail Masham was becoming more firmly entrenched as the new royal favourite, her cousin, the Tory politician Robert Harley, was on the ascent. He knew he needed to get the Duchess of Marlborough out of the way. Around this time, Anne decided to give Abigail's brother John Hill the regiment recently made vacant by the death of the Earl of Essex. This was a blatant snub to Marlborough, who was Hill's undoubted superior in all things military. Things became so bad between the two factions that some of the Duke of Marlborough's close supporters began to wonder if they should put the queen on the spot during Parliament and ask her to sack Mrs Masham. They ended up deciding against this, but that they considered it indicates the political power that came with being the queen's favourite.

Not only was Abigail firmly in the Tory camp, it has been argued that she was also a Jacobite. In 1712, Abigail (and the Tories) had well and truly

supplanted Sarah (and the Whigs) in Queen Anne's heart, and the Marlboroughs were dismissed from court and fled abroad.

Queen Anne died in a coma at Kensington Palace following a probable stroke in 1714. By the terms of the Act of Settlement, the throne was now in the hands of Electress Sophia's eldest son, Georg Ludwig, who would rule as King George I from 1714-1727. Although the Marlborough family's fortunes had gone downhill at the tail-end of Queen Anne's reign, things improved in the Georgian era - but only in some aspects. For example, they were then able to return to England and Marlborough was given his old position as Captain-General. There were more troubles to come, however - not least when Sarah had tremendous fallings-out with several of her children, including her daughters, Henrietta and Mary. Then, worst of all, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, died in 1722 - before the construction of Blenheim Palace was completed.

Towards the end of her life, Sarah Churchill published her memoirs, entitled *An Account Of The Conduct Of The Dowager Duchess of Marlborough* in 1742. This fascinating book gives us great insight into her views on events that occurred and people she knew in her life.

The 1st Duchess of Marlborough died 18 October 1744 - bringing to an end the life of one of the most powerful and wealthy women in the world. She was 84 years old - an impressive age to reach, especially in the Early Modern period. Her will stipulated that she wished to be buried at Blenheim Palace near the body of her "Dear Husband", John, late Duke of Marlborough and, accordingly, the couple remain interred side-by-side in the palace chapel to this day.

In summary, then, while *The Favourite* is in large part fictional, it is nonetheless an enjoyable, visually stunning romp based on the story of these historical persons.

Charles Martel and Abdul Rahman clash on the battlefield





BATTLE OF TOURS

WESTERN FRANCE, 10–11 OCTOBER 732 CE

Written by Charles Ginger

Founded on the blood-soaked sands of the Middle East in 661 CE, the Umayyad Caliphate started as a localised family dynasty secured after numerous internecine wars that soon began to rapidly consume the territories around it, branching out from its capital in Damascus to cast its shadow as far as Hispania (modern-day Spain) by 711 CE.

Ruled by its founder, Muawiyah I, an Islamic leader from a merchant family initially opposed to the Prophet Muhammed, the Umayyad Caliphate's expansion was fuelled by a desire to further the cause of Islam. It proved to be a very successful policy, with the bulk of the Middle East (including Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia) brought to heel, as well as the northern coast of Africa and, after less than a decade of campaigning against the ruling Visigoths (German tribesmen), almost all of Hispania.

With the mighty Byzantine Empire bordering the Caliphate's northern fringes, the next logical target for the Umayyad armies to take in 720 lay in the west beyond the imposing Pyrenees Mountains: the Frankish Kingdom.

Also known as Francia, the greatest Barbarian Kingdom of Western Europe was in fact more a patchwork of independent kingdoms than a united realm. The fractured nature of Francia convinced the Umayyad Caliphate that the region represented easy pickings, inspiring an enormous host of 80,000 men to cross the mountains separating the Frankish Kingdom from Hispania (now renamed as the Emirate of Cordoba). Unwavering in their cause and supremely confident of victory, the Umayyads had failed to take a formidable foe into account: Charles the Hammer.

The illegitimate son of Pepin II, the mayor of the palace of Austrasia (the eastern Frankish Kingdom),

Charles Martel was born in Herstal, Belgium, in 688. With no right to power and imprisoned by his father's widow in 714, a young Charles somehow managed to engineer his escape and set about battling Pepin's legitimate grandsons for control. By 719, having bested his rivals in battle twice, Charles had secured his rule as mayor of Austrasia. Not content to govern this region alone, Charles waged relentless campaigns throughout the Frankish Empire, subduing the majority of the realm and battling against a future ally in Odo the Great of Aquitaine.

While Charles focused his unceasing energy on strengthening his grip on his new kingdom, the Umayyads ventured ever further into Francia, raiding as far as Toulouse in 721. With his rule over Aquitaine seriously imperilled, Odo marched an army to the besieged city and defeated the Muslims investing it, inflicting a first major defeat on the invaders in their efforts to conquer the Franks.

In a bid to solidify the borders of Aquitaine, Odo deftly married his daughter to a rebel Muslim Berber by the name of Uthman Ibn Naissa. Yet his military and political successes were not greeted with praise by Charles Martel - quite the opposite.

Ignoring the Pope's glowing appraisal of Odo as a hero of the Christian faith, Charles deliberately broke the fragile peace with Aquitaine by marching into Odo's lands. Having pillaged the region not once but twice, Charles then defeated Odo in battle before returning to his kingdom, satisfied that he had served his rival a stinging reminder of who really held sway. Yet while Odo no doubt felt chastened by Charles' invasion, the Frankish mayor's incursion had the unintended effect of aiding the Umayyads, who had exploited the internal struggles of the two commanders to

The Frankish lines hold firm in the face of relentless Muslim attacks



unleash their own campaign against Ibn Naissa, whom they cut down in battle before sending his wife (Odo's daughter) to Damascus.

Impressively, Odo's resolve didn't falter, and despite both his military and personal losses he managed to raise another army and engage the Umayyads outside Bordeaux in 732. However, on this occasion he was unsuccessful, his forces mauled at the Battle of the River Garonne by an army led by Abdul Rahman Al-Ghafiqi, governor of Al-Andalus (now a region in the south of the Emirate of Cordoba).

With Aquitaine and Francia divided and Odo's bedraggled forces beaten back, the fate of the entire region now hung in the balance, and it seemed increasingly likely that the Muslims would continue their quest north, ravaging cities on their march into the northern reaches of Western Europe. If the natives couldn't stand together, they would fall divided. Then something completely unexpected happened: Odo bent the knee.

Aware that he could no longer hope to check the Umayyad advance alone, the Duke of Aquitaine, who was by now 80 years old, gathered his remaining troops (he had seen his army decimated) and marched north to meet with Charles and appeal for help in halting the Muslim advance. Charles duly acquiesced, agreeing to aid his former enemy on the condition that Odo submitted to Frankish rule. The Duke accepted Charles' terms, sealing a vital strategic alliance just as Al-Ghafiqi was plotting his next manoeuvre.

If the Franks were to have any chance of turning the tide and stemming the Umayyad invasion, Charles, a student of Alexander the Great's tactics, knew that he would have to fight on ground of his own choosing. In October he chose an elevated woodland located just south of the confluence of the rivers Clain and Vienne and situated between the city of Poitiers in the south and Tours to the north.

"Screaming horses fell in twisted heaps as row upon row stumbled below the ferocious slashes of the Frankish soldiers"

The speed at which Charles' army (a force of around 30,000 men that included cavalry divisions under the command of Odo) marched caught the Umayyads by surprise, their failure to scout ahead or gather any accurate intelligence on the Franks proving costly. Ordering the majority of his men to dismount, Charles arrayed his infantry into a defensive wall screened by trees while placing Odo's cavalry in the rear. Smaller cavalry units remained in the saddle along the front line, interspersing the infantry phalanx formations to form a spiked bulwark of steel overlooking open ground below.

Al-Ghafiqi's hordes began to trickle into the field below, but without his full complement of troops, which mainly comprised lightly armoured cavalry, the Umayyad commander was reluctant to launch a full-scale attack on the Frankish ranks immediately, instead initiating a week of skirmishes that achieved little. The Franks were holding firm.

After continued failures to cut through the stubborn Frank lines and with winter looming, on 10 October Al-Ghafiqi's patience finally snapped.

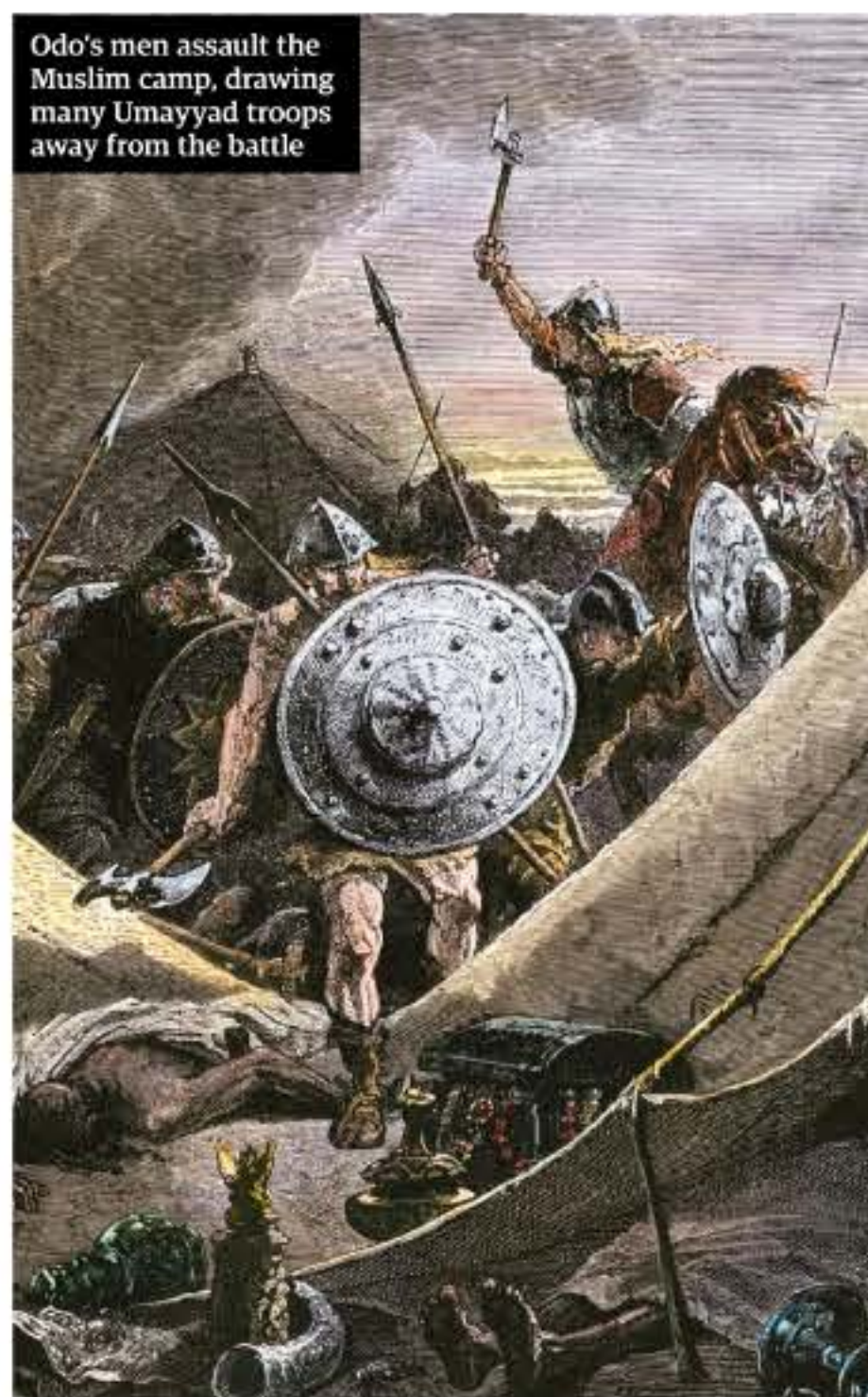
The remainder of his army had by now caught up, bringing Al-Ghafiqi's strength to approximately 30,000 and enabling the Muslim commander to unleash the first of many waves of cavalry charges.

As the ground vibrated beneath a sea of thumping hooves and the war cries of the Umayyads, Charles' infantry, armed with two-handed greatswords, spears and razor-sharp franciscas (throwing axes) pressed together and braced themselves. When the first Umayyad riders who had not been brought down by an axe smashed into the Frankish shields their spears and curved swords met chainmail and steel with every slice. Screaming horses fell in twisted heaps as row upon row stumbled below the ferocious slashes of the Frankish soldiers.

Maintaining his composure, Charles kept Odo's cavalry out of the fray and implored his men to stand their ground. Another wave of Umayyad cavalry soon careered into the Frankish infantry, then another, the relentless assaults gradually carving dents into the defenders' ranks. Yet any paths the Umayyads managed to cleave open were quickly closed behind them as horsemen found themselves swallowed by a sea of swords. At one point a host of Umayyad riders surged towards Charles in the hope of decapitating the Frankish army only to be frustrated when a wall of infantry formed around him that would not yield.

Incredibly, despite his mounting losses Al-Ghafiqi continued to throw his cavalry at the immovable Franks, each rider having to navigate a slope

Odo's men assault the Muslim camp, drawing many Umayyad troops away from the battle



adorned with the bodies of their comrades and their steeds only to be cut down. Yet while the Umayyads lacked a second approach, Charles had kept an ace up his sleeve that he now prepared to play as the battle wore on.

The Umayyad encampment had been left virtually unguarded as Al-Ghafiqi's forces poured forward, presenting the Franks with a tempting target. As Charles' men started to push forward in the face of further cavalry charges, Odo's cavalry divisions began to slip away from their hidden position behind the main Frankish lines and ride hard for the enemy's camp.

They fell upon the few Muslim soldiers left to guard the camp and slaughtered them, before unshackling the slaves the Muslims had captured and falling on the enemy's war loot. Charles' ploy was about to change the course of the entire battle, and in doing so alter the fate of Europe.

Horrified at the prospect of losing the booty they had taken from the cities they'd sacked, the Umayyad cavalry began to turn away from the Frankish infantry they were meant to be charging, instead committing themselves to a frantic dash back towards their camp, deaf to the pleas of their leader to remain focused on the battle at hand. Such recklessness would prove fatal to the Umayyad cause.

Finally relieved from the ceaseless charges of the enemy, the Franks pursued their disorganised foes, cutting down any rider unable to make good speed towards the camp. Courageous to the last,



The Franks had emerged as the first real power in Europe since the fall of Rome



FRANKISH EMPIRE



CHARLES MARTEL

Martel didn't allow his illegitimacy to prevent him from subduing and ruling the Franks.

- Had great experience and possessed accurate intelligence on his enemy's strength
- Risked the annihilation of his army if the Muslims could break the Frankish lines

INFANTRY

The experienced heavy infantrymen at Tours were clad in thick armour and in a strong defensive position.

- Almost impenetrable when arranged as a phalanx, especially on higher ground
- Lacked the mobility and range afforded to the Muslim cavalry



FRANCISCA THROWING AXE

With a unique curved head and a shaft of just under half a metre, this lethal projectile was named in honour of the soldiers that carried them to battle.

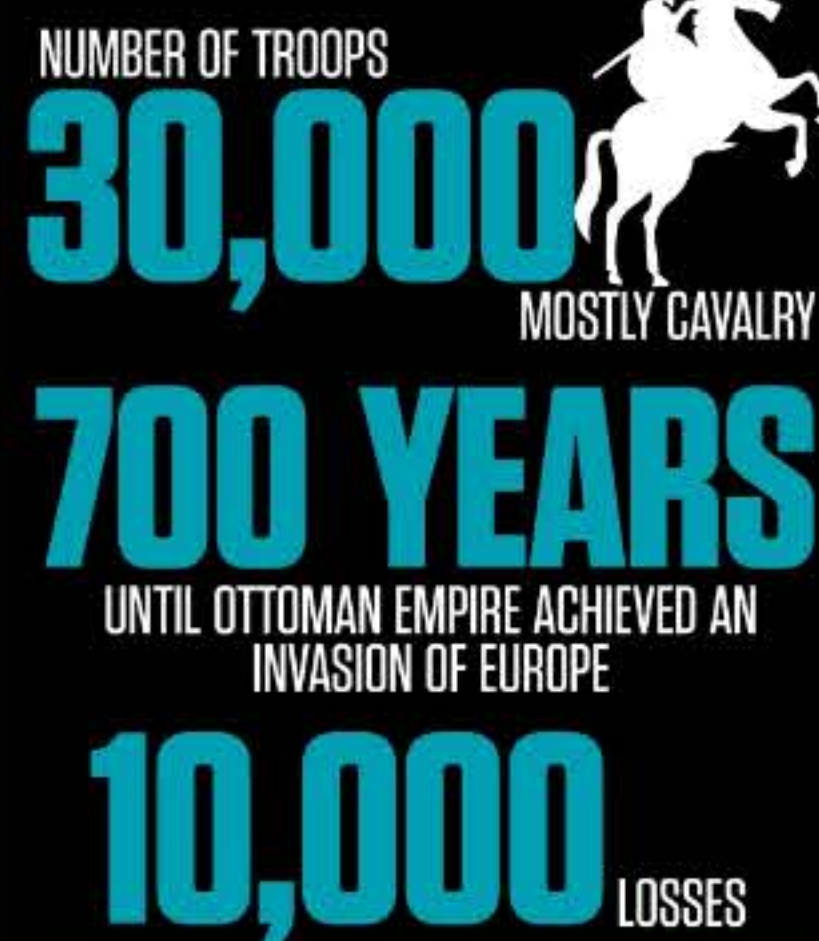
- Thrown en masse it could decimate an army's front line
- Once used it would have been incredibly difficult to retrieve in the chaos of battle



Battle of Tours



UMAYYAD CALIPHATE



ABDUL RAHMAN AL-GHAFIQI

Had already proved himself as governor of Al-Andalus.

- A competent commander who had already defeated Odo the Great twice
- Launched a series of futile charges on unfavourable ground

HEAVY CAVALRY

The largest contingent of Muslims that swept across Hispania in less than a decade.

- Great mobility and speed, combined with an ability to fire arrows from the saddle
- Lightly armoured and forced to charge uphill against tightly packed ranks of heavy infantry



SPEAR

A fixture on European battlefields for centuries, the Muslim cavalry utilised the spear to devastating effect when charging over open ground.

- Offered great reach when slamming into enemy ranks and could also be used as a deadly missile
- Very ineffective in close-quarters combat



Al-Ghafiqi stood his ground and fought, but he was quickly surrounded and cut down, his death a blow from which his desperate men could not recover. Victory was secured, and with it a rare place in history for the Frankish infantry, who had managed to stand firm against cavalry charges, an unusual feat in medieval warfare.

Accurate death tolls for battles of this period are notoriously difficult to acquire, but most historians place Muslim losses at around 10,000 men, while the Franks are estimated to have seen 1,000 of their own slain. What has never been in doubt is the scale of Charles' triumph.

Although it would be many years before the Muslim invaders were eventually forced back into the Iberian Peninsula, the Frankish victory at Tours marked the furthest a Muslim army would ever venture into Western Europe. Inevitably this led to Charles being hailed as a saviour of Christianity. Yet while defeating the Umayyad army outside Tours was indeed a pivotal moment in European history in its own right, it is in fact the dynasty that the Christian victory gave birth to many years afterwards that proved even more influential in shaping the continent's history.

During his 53 years Charles sired a number of children, one of whom was born in 714: Pepin the Short. Just 18 at the time of his father's victory at Tours, Pepin would succeed his father in 741 as ruler of the Franks, something that would have been far from guaranteed had Charles been cut down at Tours and the Franks routed. As ambitious as his father, Pepin campaigned relentlessly to expand his power base, but despite his many achievements one moment defines his rule over all others: the birth of his son Charlemagne.

Considered by many historians to be the 'father of Europe', Charlemagne succeeded his father in 768 to rule the Franks alongside his brother Carloman (who died in 771, allowing his sibling to rule alone). A brilliant strategist, Charlemagne committed much of his reign to military campaigns, determined to unite the Germanic peoples of Europe and spread the word of Christianity. Following his coronation as Emperor of the Romans in 800 CE, Charlemagne pioneered a cultural and intellectual renaissance (the Carolingian Renaissance), which injected his kingdom with a new-found desire for knowledge and progress, dragging his people away from the morass into which Western Europe had descended following the collapse of the Roman Empire. Scholars blossomed as the works of greats such as Caesar and Cicero were copied and thereby preserved, while new forms of architecture began to spring up throughout the land as Mediterranean art enjoyed a comeback.

This vital step forward for the Franks set the stage for a wider European longing for progress and understanding, but it all would have looked very different if Charles Martel's men had failed to hold the line at Tours and turn back the tide of the Umayyad Caliphate.

OCT 732

The Franks defeat the Umayyads despite the sheer brute power of the Muslims

01 The element of surprise

Alert to the dangers of facing the Umayyad cavalry on open ground, Charles wasted little time in marching his army to a favourable location in the line of the Umayyad march north. As astute as ever, he had gathered vital intelligence on his enemy's strengths and weakness, and he knew he couldn't hope to best them with a mounted army. He would instead command his men to form a defensive formation.

02 Skirmishes

Frustratingly for Al-Ghafiqi his army was marching in separate contingents, so when his vanguard reached the ground below the Franks he was unable to initiate an immediate engagement. He was also completely unaware of the size and strength of the enemy that blocked his path. As a result of both of these factors he could only commit to light skirmishes while he awaited the arrival of the rest of his forces.

03 Reinforcements arrive

After a week of hacking at the Frankish lines to no avail, Al-Ghafiqi saw the rest of his army arriving, the bulk of his cavalry crossing the grassy plains beneath the flapping banners of the Caliphate in a riot of colour. The time to properly engage the enemy had come.

04 Charge!

It was incredibly rare for infantry to successfully withstand repeated cavalry charges during the bloody medieval period, a fact that Al-Ghafiqi's entire strategy was contingent upon. Setting his sights on the dense forest above his position, the governor of Al-Andalus signalled his first line of cavalry to charge.

Battle of Tours

10 The Hammer smashes Al-Ghafiqi

Driven by sheer greed, the Umayyads pay no heed to the pleas of their commander as he urges them to return and fight. Their reckless dash plays straight into Charles' hands, the Frankish leader pressing his men forward to pursue the frantic enemy. The Franks are initially cautious, fearing an ambush, but when the remaining Umayyads quit the field the following day they know that victory is theirs.

09 Muslim cavalry falls back

Desperate to save their hard-won loot, swathes of the Muslim cavalry engaging the Franks to the north abandon the assault and ride hard for their camp, causing the Umayyad attack to disintegrate.

08 Raid on the Umayyad encampment

Caught unawares and outnumbered, the meagre guard within the camp is quickly put to the sword and their captives released. Nothing now stands in the way of Odo's cavalry and the Muslims' war booty.

07 Odo outflanks the enemy

Each fissure that the Umayyads carve open is quickly sealed by stout infantrymen determined to protect their leader. If Charles were to fall the Frankish resolve would collapse. With the fighting still underway, Odo's cavalry begins to peel away from its position in the reserve of the Frankish army. Wheeling round to the right of the Umayyads, Odo's men make for the Umayyad camp to the south of the fighting.

06 A crack in the ice

Such was the stubbornness of the Franks that, in the words of one Christian historian, "the men of the north seemed like a sea that cannot be moved". Yet in places the ocean of native soldiers did give way in the face of the relentless Umayyad onslaught.

05 Hold the line

As the enemy began to race across the field the Frankish phalanxes tightened and raised their spears, presenting the onrushing cavalry with a bristling wall of steel and shields. Charles was relying on his heavily armoured infantry to stand firm and cut the Muslim horsemen down wherever possible, riders who would be charging uphill into a forested area, thereby removing their precious advantages of both mobility and speed.

The 'What If' Newspaper

Rome

Interview by Jonathan O'Callaghan

44 BCE

CAESAR SURVIVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

A defiant Julius Caesar vows to continue his moves towards autocratic rule and forge a new era for all of Rome

EXCLUSIVE Interview With



**PROFESSOR
CATHERINE
STEEL**

Catherine Steel is a Professor of Classics at the University of Glasgow. She is a historian of Rome, and is particularly interested in its political history and its institutional structures.

What was happening in the events leading up to Caesar's assassination on 15 March 44 BCE?

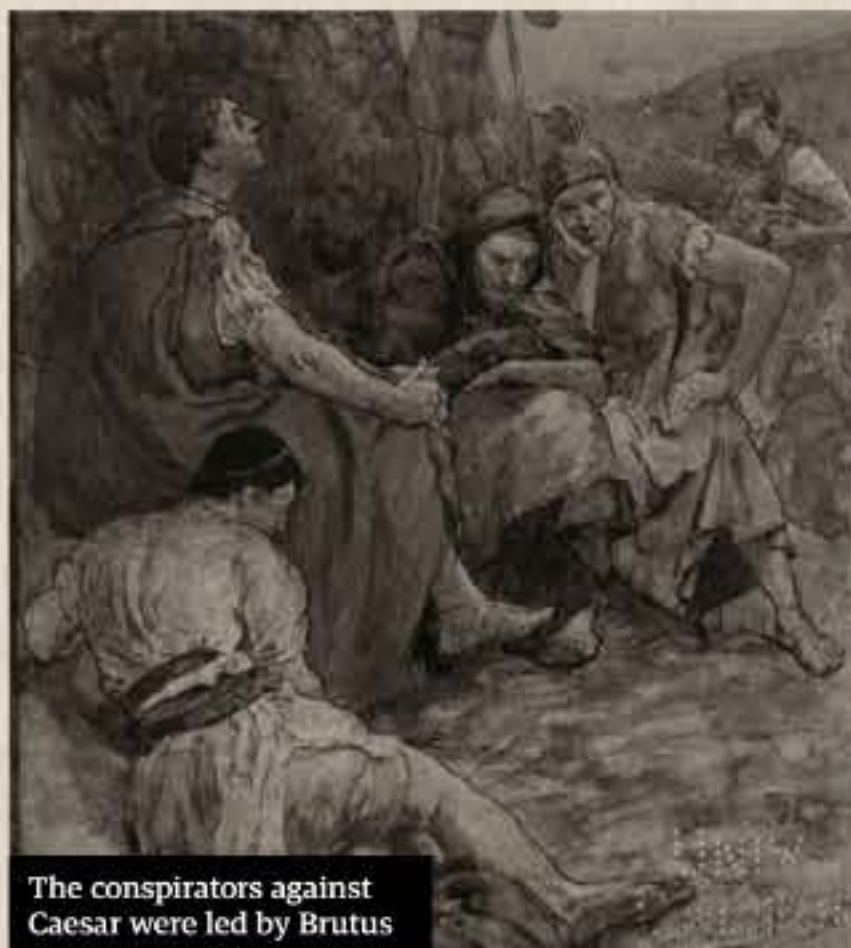
On the one hand, Caesar had plans for a campaign against Parthia, and [was preparing] for his imminent departure. It was days before he was planning to leave, and clearly his departure forced the

pace of the conspirators' actions. If they were to eliminate Caesar, they needed to do so before he departed. On the other hand, in the run-up to his departure there were a number of developments within Rome that consolidated Caesar's power as supreme ruler, including dictatorship for life. It was Caesar's consolidation

of power, in ways that were looking unconstitutional and incompatible with the republic, that made the conspirators believe that he had to be eliminated.

Who were the conspirators that wanted to assassinate Caesar?

Well, it was a large conspiracy. The



The conspirators against Caesar were led by Brutus

"SAD" CONSPIRATORS BELIEVED "FAKE NEWS" SAYS CAESAR

In a stinging public address distributed by small birds around all of Rome, Julius Caesar has called upon his loyal base of supporters to stick by him in what promises to be challenging months in the wake of an attempted assassination. "Brutus & co were low IQ people. No brains at all. They bought into FAKE NEWS that I want to be a dictator. Am only one who can make Rome great. SAD!" he explained.





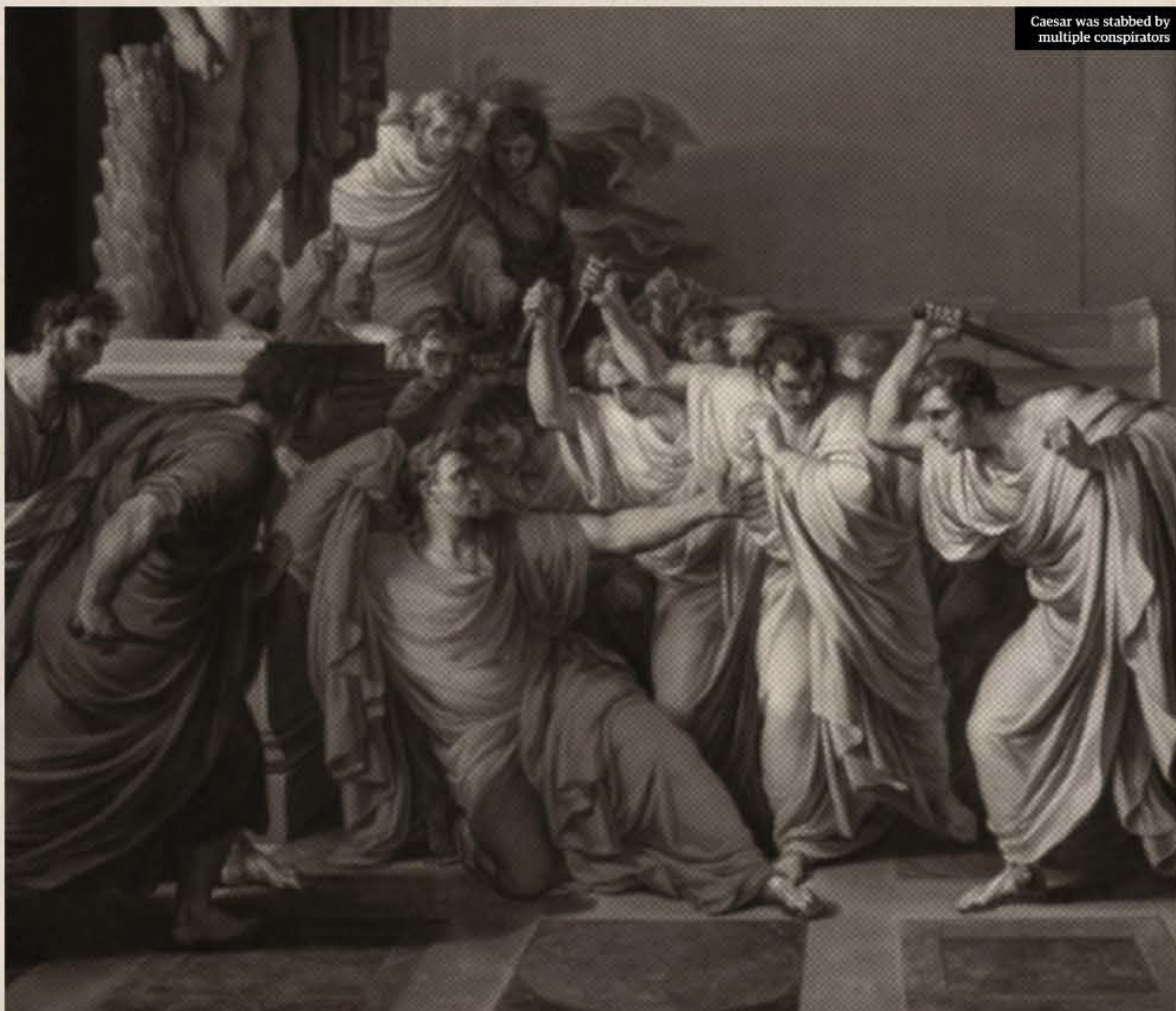
By some accounts
Caesar hoped to emulate
Alexander the Great

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Caesar was stabbed by
multiple conspirators

The 'What If' Newspaper

person who was thought to be the leader was Brutus. He may not have been the initiator of it, but when he comes on board he is regarded as its leader because of his authority, the respect with which he was held, his integrity as it was seen, and perhaps to a certain extent his own family history.

And they were concerned about the amount of power Caesar would have?

Yes, and although Caesar never called himself a king, that sense that autocratic power was incompatible with the Roman republic, and Rome had a history of eliminating tyrants, was an important part of the way that the conspirators framed their action and explained it legitimately. That was its justification.

What happened on the day of the assassination?

Caesar was killed at a meeting of the Senate by the conspirators. We're told that a large number gathered around him and stabbed him. It was a collective action - no one blow on its own was fatal. And he was the only person killed. Indeed, the conspirators were very careful not to include any of Caesar's circle within the victims, precisely because they were worried about how they justified the action. This wasn't just a purge of Caesar and his party. This was an elimination of a tyrant.

What happens after Caesar's death, in the run-up to civil war in Rome?

In the immediate aftermath of the assassination, the conspirators attempt to reassure the Roman populous that Caesar is dead, but that it was a tyrannicide and there is no cause for panic. But one interpretation of the conspirators, who sort of lose initiative in the days after Caesar's death, is that they haven't really thought things through. They seem to be working on the assumption that you get rid of Caesar, and that on its own is enough. And of course what happens is that other factions within Rome respond very rapidly to what has happened, partly because of the opportunities but also because no one can be quite sure what the conspirators actually intend. What we find in the days after Caesar's death is the emergence of two major factions: the conspirators and Anthony, a key supporter of Caesar. And we have this quite surprising ability of both sides to secure, at least for the time being, peace. The thought that Caesar would be the

only person to die was not by any means the most likely outcome. And yet the conspirators and Anthony effectively negotiate an amnesty. That is, there is no penalty for the killing of Caesar, but at the same time no wholesale dismantling of what Caesar had done. And then in the weeks and months that follow, Anthony manages to consolidate his position [although it eventually leads to civil war].

It's said that Caesar had some reservations about going to the meeting, including a dream from his wife Calpurnia. Do we know if these are true?

Well, we can't tell whether it's true or not. It's a story that's told about the events of the day, but of course these are stories that create a dramatic narrative, in which Caesar goes despite having information that might suggest he should not.

So what if he had never gone to the meeting, and he had never been assassinated?

He would have presumably left Rome and departed for the Parthian campaign. I think there's little evidence that his power would have been significantly undermined at Rome itself, because he had ensured that his supporters would continue to hold office during his absence. I think we can assume that as long as Caesar was alive, Rome would have remained a hospitable place for him. So what are the outcomes of the Parthian campaign? Well, one possibility is he carried out a successful campaign and returns to Rome in triumph, the greatest and most glorious campaign of his entire career, his position of power consolidated for the rest of his life. And I think we probably need to assume that on his death, he would have identified a successor. The other possibility is the Parthian campaign goes wrong, and Caesar is killed during it, in which case I think we then assume a similar sort of power struggle develops at Rome as the one we see after his assassination.

Did Caesar want to emulate Alexander the Great?

Possibly. Alexander is the extraordinary, glamorous and attractive figure. And the stories we have of Caesar are of him weeping because he was older than Alexander and he'd achieved nothing. So that could well have been part of how Caesar packaged a successful Parthian campaign.

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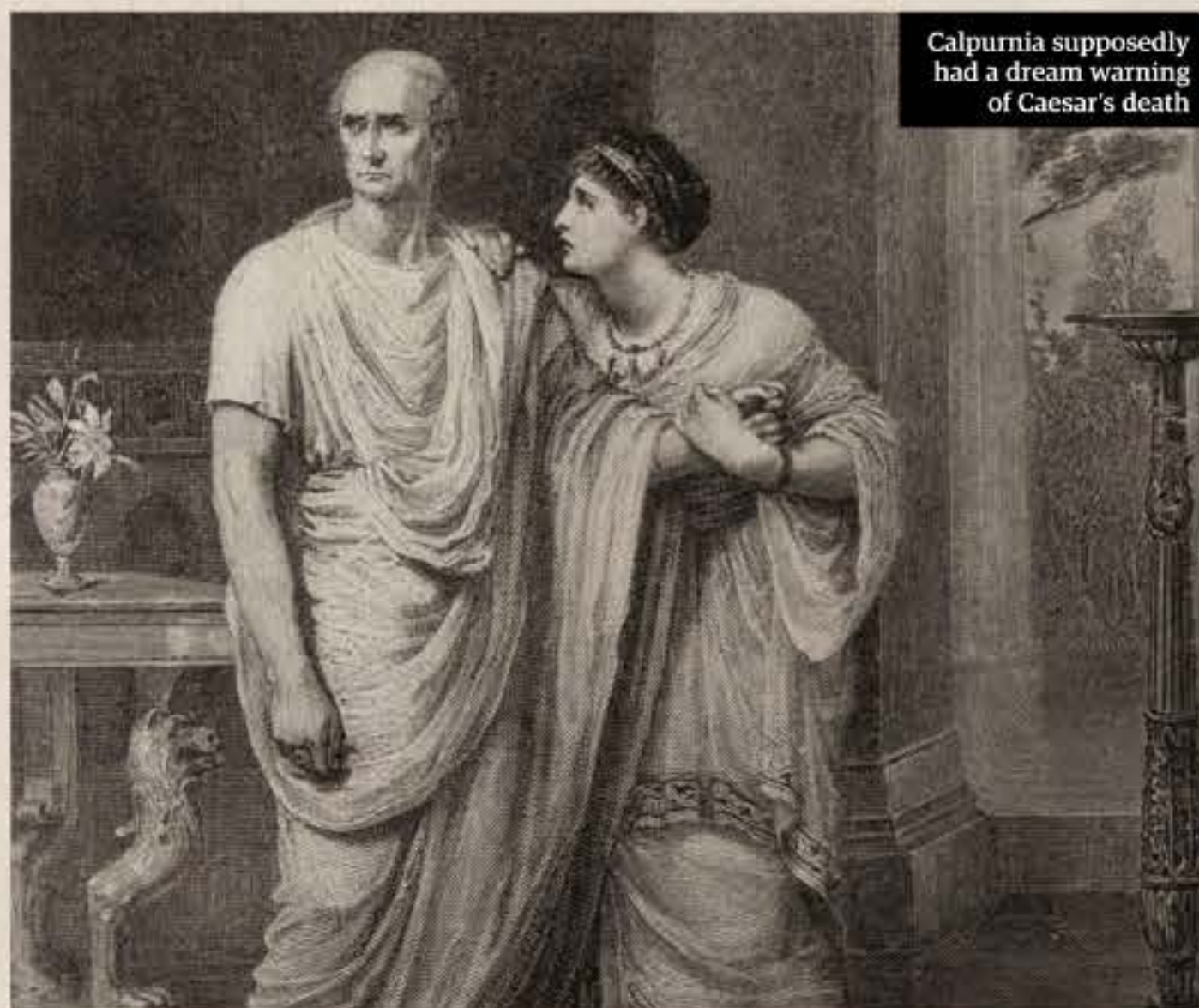
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“The assassination was a collective action – no one blow on its own was fatal”



Caesar was ultimately succeeded by Augustus



Calpurnia supposedly had a dream warning of Caesar's death

Would Caesar have continued moving towards autocratic power, with himself at the helm?

The direction of travel towards autocratic power was pretty firmly in place by the time of Caesar's death. And the sequence of events that leads to Augustus emerging as sole ruler in 27 BCE might not necessarily have been followed if Caesar hadn't died in 44 BCE. There's pretty fair evidence to suggest that Caesar had identified his great nephew Octavius as a promising young man, and he might well have looked like the next person to follow Caesar.

Could there have been less civil wars and less bloodshed without Caesar's assassination?

Yes that is entirely possible from an internal point of view, because Caesar's assassination did leave a power vacuum, and civil war was a result in order to fill it. So yes, it is certainly possible to imagine a sequence of events in which Caesar dies at a ripe old age and there is a peaceful transition. I don't think that's the only outcome, it is a very volatile world, and it is one in which civil war has changed from the unthinkable to the thinkable. Augustus managed to evade it at the time of his death by the establishment of a system of autocracy. One of the key factors in Augustus' achievement of that is his consolidation of the army, and his establishment of a fiscal system that allowed the army to be paid. We have

very little sense of how Caesar might have tackled those problems.

Would our view of that period today be significantly different?

Caesar's assassination becomes hugely important symbolically, as the death of a tyrant, and from that point of view it remains extremely significant for Augustus. Some of the ways in which he tackles the problem of how to be an autocrat do seem to have been shaped by his great uncle's death. The other major change would be that Augustan poetry would have looked very different. Virgil and Horace and then subsequently even Ovid would have been writing in a world that was peaceful. Some of the fundamental works of European literature are so embedded in a very precise historical context of the 30s and 20s BCE. It's quite interesting to speculate what would have come out instead.

Had Caesar's Parthian campaign been successful, would we view him as Caesar the Great now?

Caesar had already established a pretty substantial military authority, which is very much part of his reputation. So I'm not sure it would have fundamentally changed that sense of Caesar as the great military strategist who then consolidates that into personal power. I think it was a course of action that absolutely fitted with the activities and the profile and the power that he had already established.

Caesar's Egyptian Heir

While Gaius Octavius, later Augustus, seems to have been Julius Caesar's pick to succeed him, and ultimately after a bloody civil war he managed to do just that, becoming the first emperor of the Roman Empire, there may have been a different choice. Ptolemy XV Philopator Philometor Caesar, known as Caesarion, was the son of Cleopatra VII and believed to be the son of Julius (the two having been lovers for many years), after whom he was named. Cleopatra pushed for Caesarion to succeed Julius as ruler of Rome, while he also ruled alongside his mother in Egypt (and briefly on his own when Cleopatra was killed). Ironically, he would be the last pharaoh of Egypt as Augustus defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra, and hunted Caesarion down, finally having him executed in Alexandria in 30 BCE at the age of only 17. Had the succession of Julius Caesar been more controlled, a different path may have played out.



This relief from the Dendera Temple complex depicts Cleopatra VII alongside her son Caesarion

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THROUGH HISTORY

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HISTORY OF THE WRITTEN WORD

What can we learn about the evolution of language and civilisation from our oldest surviving texts? A new book helps us to find out

The development of civilisations around the world can be neatly signposted by the spread of a written language. While oral traditions are massively important to most cultures, being able to write something down means that it can also be made universal for a community. Once written, a law or religious practice can be codified, copied and spread

around a wider region than word of mouth alone could guarantee.

This is something that we can see in practice in *Ancient Peoples In Their Own Words*, a new title from Amber Books that chronicles key artefacts from Mesopotamia to Rome, showing how the written word was used to record historical events, establish legal practices and

teach future generations the best practices of the age. What's interesting to learn is just how far written languages developed in the centuries between all of these civilisations, each building on things picked up from the past.

So, join us as we pick through some of the most interesting artefacts featured in this new book and what we can learn about their origins.

LAWS OF THE LAND

During the 18th century BCE, King Hammurabi of Babylon had this seven foot pillar commissioned proclaiming the laws of the land. Made of basalt, it codifies such laws as accusers receiving the fine imposed on lawbreakers, being put to death if they wrongly accuse someone of a capital crime and an instant death sentence for theft from the crown or a shrine.



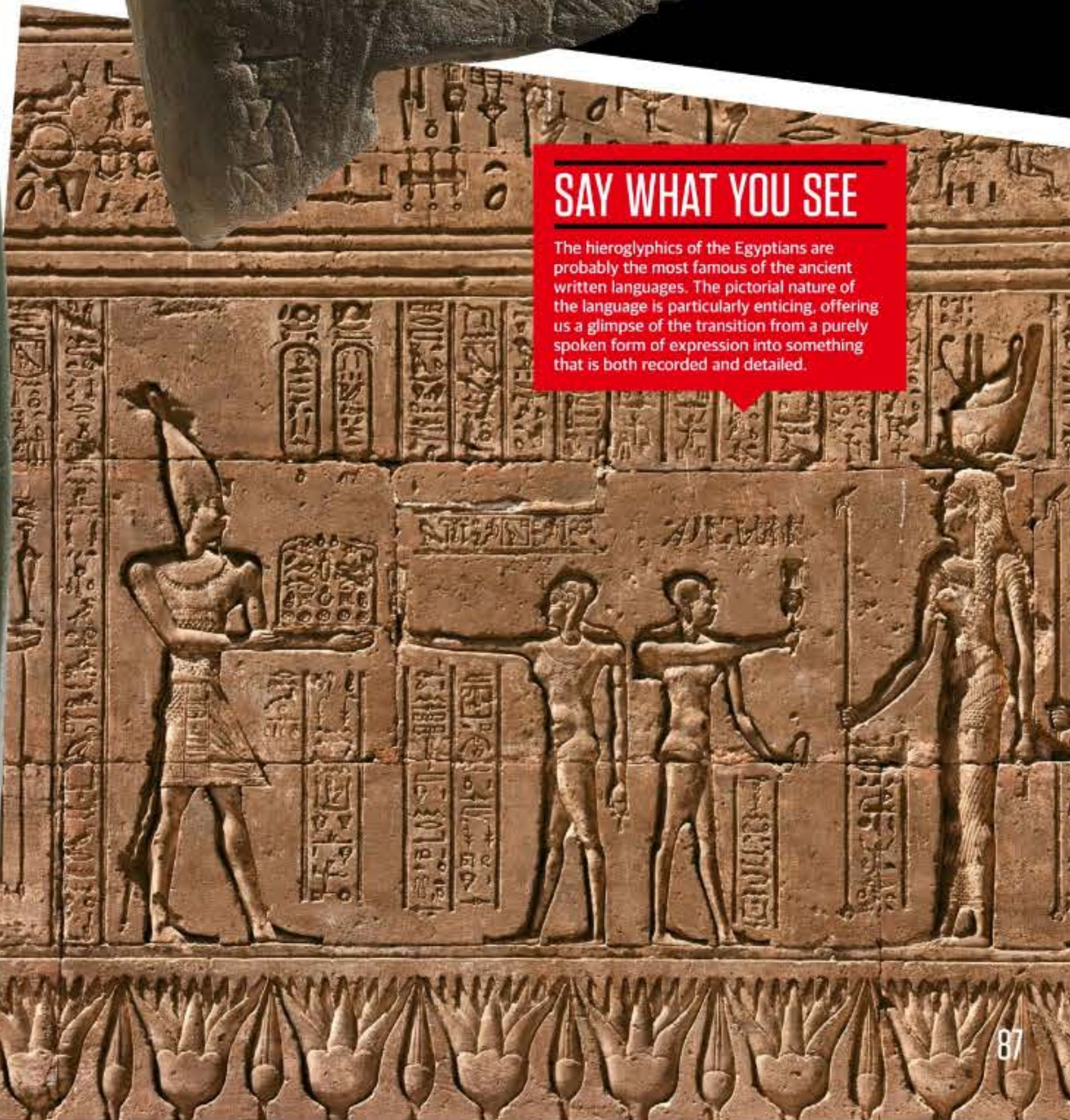
TEACHING TOOLS

This fascinating stone is actually a kind of agricultural instruction manual, offering guidance on when crops ought to be harvested and planted, depending on their type. Not that we would think farmers needed such guidance, so it's suggested that it could have been for schooling children. It's actually not clear. The lettering itself is a form of Paleo-Hebrew and one of the earliest examples known. It currently sits in the Museum of Ancient Orient in Istanbul.



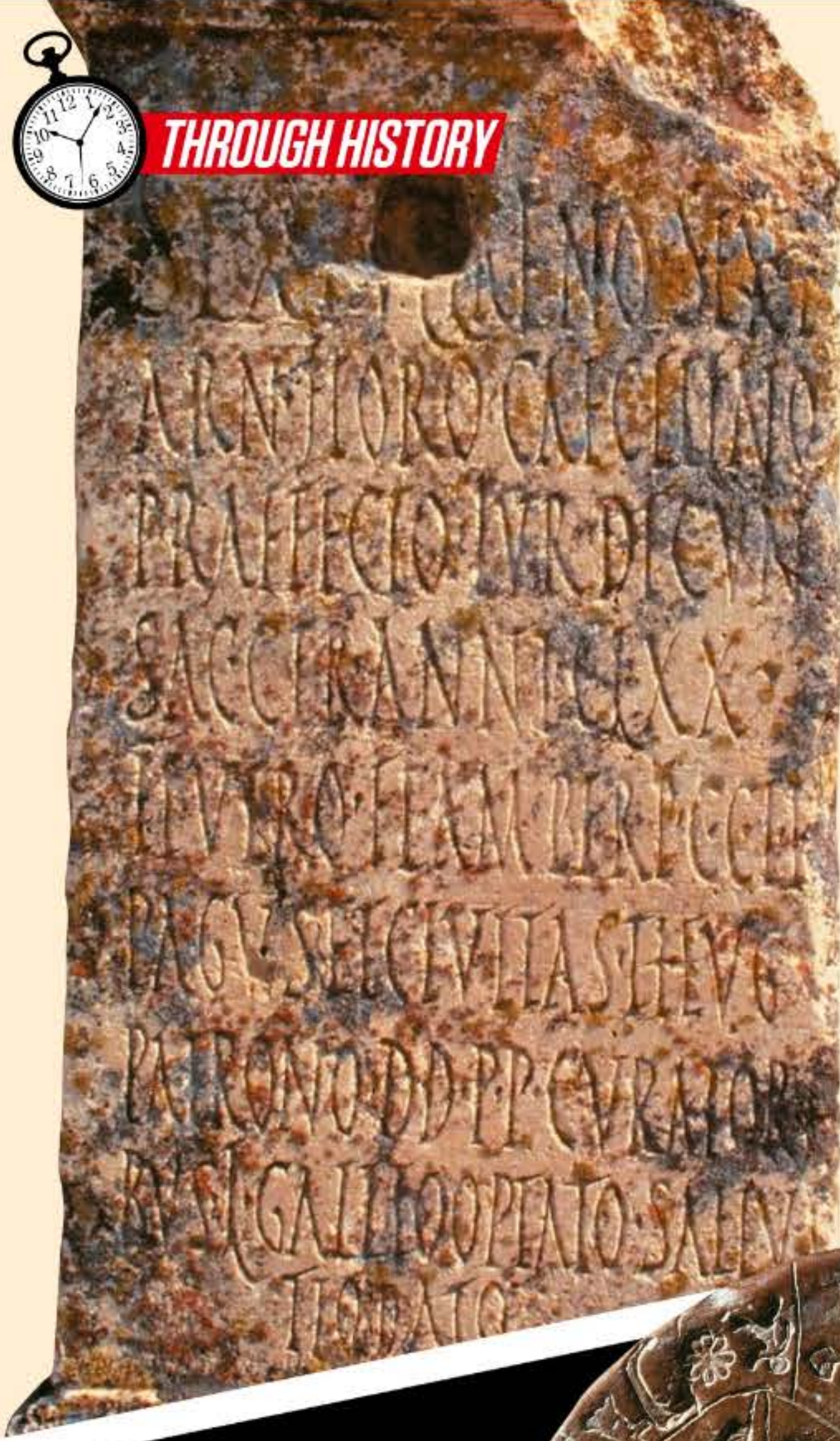
SAY WHAT YOU SEE

The hieroglyphics of the Egyptians are probably the most famous of the ancient written languages. The pictorial nature of the language is particularly enticing, offering us a glimpse of the transition from a purely spoken form of expression into something that is both recorded and detailed.





THROUGH HISTORY



CULTURAL IMPERIALISM

The Roman empire stood for many centuries and one of its enduring legacies was how it spread its own language around Europe and North Africa in that time, leaving behind totems of its power. This pillar from Tunisia is a great example of this, originating in what was known as Thugga (now Dougga) in the north of the country. The idea that civilisation was firmly tied to writing was well established by the time of the Romans.

EXTOLLING VIRTUES

This shield, called a Clupeus Virtutis, was presented to Augustus by the Roman Senate in thanks for his leadership, and claims to list his virtues. This is actually a marble duplicate of the original shield, which would have been made of gold. It's been questioned whether Augustus actually embodied any of these virtues, such as clemency and piety, perhaps indicating the direction the Senate wished to nudge their emperor instead.



PHARAOH FICTION?

So much of our understanding of ancient history must come from interpreting the chronicles of events that we can find from those times, and the Palermo Stone is one such document. Listing the first Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt, it also includes details of key events that happened under each reign. It's commonly agreed that many listed on this stone are actually mythical, however.

HIDDEN MYSTERIES

For all of the advances in our understanding of language over the centuries, some of the meaning of some artefacts still eludes us. Take for example the Phaistos Disc found in a Minoan palace in Crete, which has yet to be translated, in part because Minoan is nothing like its contemporary Greek language. Another interesting feature of this disk is that the symbols have been stamped into the clay before it was fired making it, to some extent, a typewritten text.



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On the Menu PAELLA VALENCIANA

Did you know?

Paella in Valencian simply means pan, so the name is derived from the utensil it's cooked in



Ingredients

- 500g rabbit, cut into small chunks
- 500g boneless chicken thighs, cut into small chunks
- 200g green beans
- 200g lima/butter beans
- 500g rice
- 100g chopped tomatoes
- 1.5 litres chicken/vegetable stock
- Extra virgin olive oil
- A few strands of saffron
- Sprig of rosemary
- 1 tbsp of paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste

A SPANISH CLASSIC, FIT FOR A QUEEN ALHAMBRA, GRANADA, 16TH CENTURY

This issue, we thought that rather than digging into the classic Tudor cook book we would look to Catherine of Aragon's heritage in Spain to see what cuisine the young queen in waiting might have brought with her across the Channel. While there are a number of fascinating dishes that would have been perfectly suited to the court of Henry VIII (a lot of stews with sweet spices being common) we thought that a classic Valencian paella looked like it would do well.

Many of its key ingredients actually arrived in Europe during the 16th century as explorers and traders brought produce from beyond its borders. What's more, the use of chicken and rabbit seems like the meat-heavy style of cooking that the Tudor court would appreciate. Many other variations exist, of course, including some with snails or switching the green beans for mangetout, but that's one of the fun things about paella; it's a very versatile dish. Let's see how it would all come together.

METHOD

- 01** Heat a large, high-sided frying pan on a medium to high heat, adding enough olive oil to coat the bottom of it. Once at a good temperature, add the rabbit and chicken meat and begin to brown. Try to have the large pieces in the middle as these will cook a little faster, keeping the meat evenly browned.
- 02** Once browned (about 10 minutes, but longer if needed) move the meat to the edge of the pan and add the green beans to cook in the centre. These will not take long to take on colour so keep an eye on them for about 5 minutes.
- 03** Once done, move the beans to the edges as well and add the chopped tomatoes. If fresh, cook until juices are all released, if from a can, simply heat through. Then stir all the ingredients together and add the paprika, mixing well and making sure nothing burns.
- 04** Once well mixed add the stock, lima/butter beans, saffron and rosemary and bring to

the boil. The stock should cover all of the ingredients. Saffron isn't cheap, so you can replace it with a half teaspoon of turmeric for the colour, although it won't add the same flavour.

- 05** Allow the stock to heat up for 5 minutes, add salt and pepper to taste, then add the rice and turn up the heat again, mixing everything together well to spread the rice evenly. Remove the rosemary at this point so that you don't have it breaking the texture of the final dish.
- 06** Cook for 5 minutes on a high heat, bring down to medium heat for another 5 minutes and then finish off on a low heat for 10 minutes. Watch that all of the liquid has evaporated at this point, but don't worry if it hasn't as the most important thing is that the rice is not overcooked.
- 07** Allow the dish to stand for a few minutes once complete. This should allow a little extra time to absorb what liquid is left or for the rice to soften a little if needed without still being on the heat.

REVIEWS

The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

CURTAIN DOWN AT HER MAJESTY'S

A refreshing take on the final days of one of Britain's most iconic monarchs

Author Stewart Richards **Publisher** The History Press **Price** £12.99 **Released** Out now

Without a doubt, Queen Victoria is one of the most studied monarchs to have ever lived. Numerous books, television series and films have been produced that focus on her life, to the

point where you could argue that there is no new way to look at her - enter Stewart Richards with *Curtain Down At Her Majesty's*, subtitled *The Death Of Queen Victoria In The Words Of Those Who Were There*.

The book is comprised entirely of first-hand accounts surrounding the queen's final days, her death and funeral. With excerpts from Victoria's own journal, including her last ever entry, bulletins and even newspaper articles, you really get to experience the queen's decline and passing through the eyes of those around her.

Richards' decision to let the contemporary sources speak for themselves is undoubtedly a clever concept. It is fascinating to learn about the decline in Victoria's mental and physical health in the weeks leading up to her death, particularly through the accounts of her resident physician, Sir James Reid.

Devoted to her care, Reid grew increasingly concerned over the queen's deteriorating condition, at one point describing her as "dazed, confused, and aphasic." However, he also noted how Victoria "could pull herself together when she saw

anyone but her maids or me," proving that even in her dying days, the queen was resilient.

Reading through the first-hand accounts also offers a raw, emotional insight into Victoria's death. For example, her grandson, George, Duke of York (the future King George V), declares "I shall never forget that scene in her room, with all of us sobbing & heartbroken round her bed." It is a poignant and simple statement, which serves as reminder that not only had the nation lost a queen, but that a family had lost their matriarch.

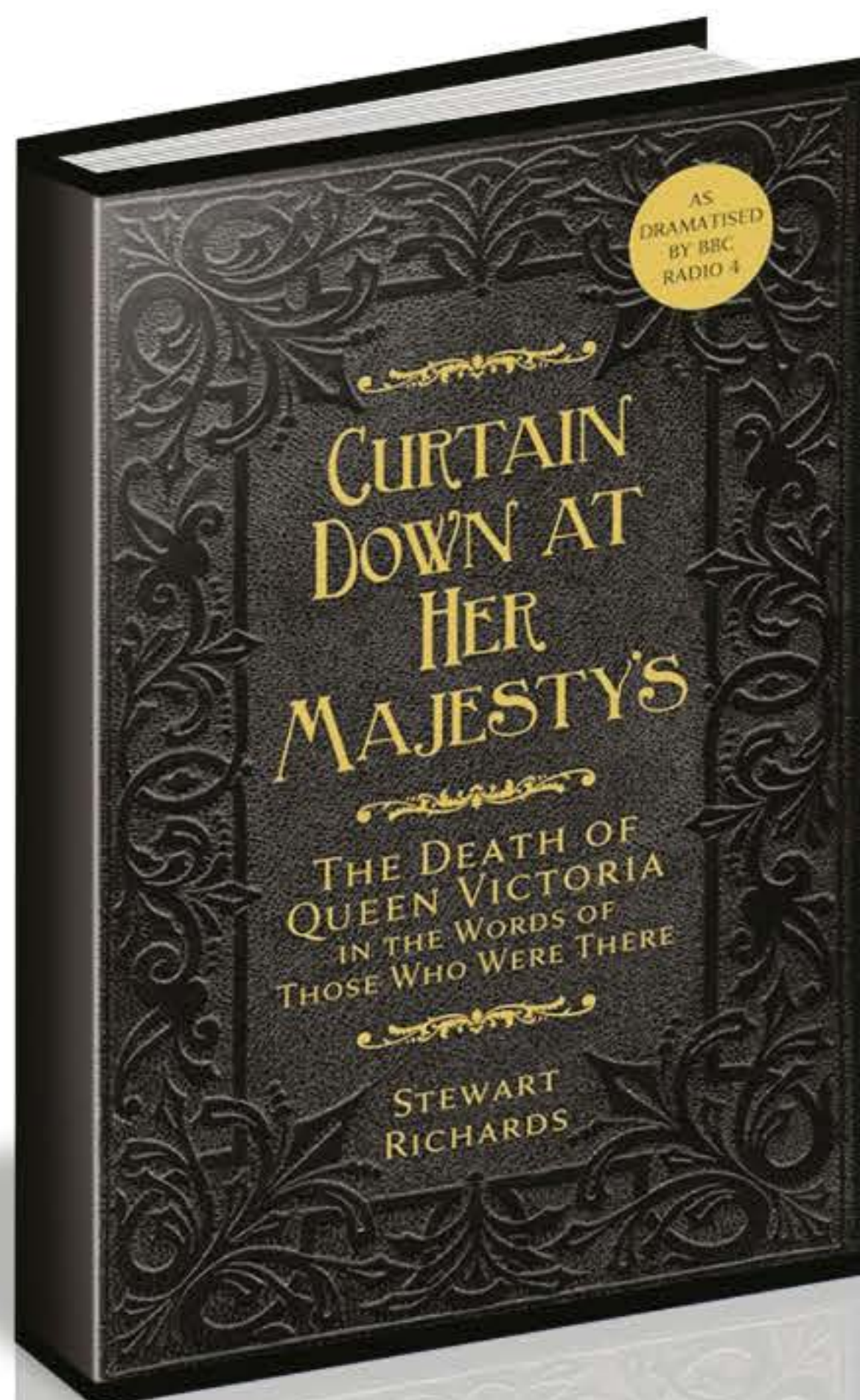
It is also interesting to discover the uncertainty that came with the knowledge that Victoria was approaching death. In an excerpt her assistant private secretary, Sir Frederick Ponsonby, admits "no one seemed to know what the procedure was", considering the last monarch had passed away in 1837 - a reminder that the queen had provided a stable presence on the throne for over six decades.

The book concludes nicely with an epilogue featuring accounts relative to Victoria's illness and funeral. This includes expenses for

the queen's state funeral, the instructions she left behind for her burial and in a final section, an outline of Victoria's extensive family at the time of her death. Thankfully, while Richards uses all these captivating accounts, he does provide introductions and footnotes to give context on different figures either used or mentioned in the book, which helpfully guides the reader through the various sources.

However, arguably the best aspect of this book is simply how enjoyable it is to read. The accounts that Richards has chosen are so engaging that it almost feels like you are reading a work of fiction, rather than a collection of sources - and should appeal to all lovers of royal history.

"You really get to experience the queen's decline and passing through the eyes of those around her"





Book



TV



Podcast



Film



Games



Other

Reviews by

Jessica Leggett, Catherine Curzon, Martyn Conterio

WOMEN WHO DARED TO BREAK ALL THE RULES

A fun but shallow exploration of the lives of six daring women

Author Jeremy Scott **Publisher** Oneworld **Price** £12.99 **Released** Out now

Victoria Woodhull, Mary Wollstonecraft, Aimee Semple McPherson, Edwina Mountbatten, Margaret Argyll and Coco Chanel all had one thing in common – they challenged the expectations of women in society, courting infamy and scandal along the way. It's always great to see a book that shines a light on fascinating figures from the past, and Scott explores the lives of these six women with a witty and fun writing style that will appeal to readers who usually avoid heavier historical non-fiction.

However, the structure of the book is all over the place. Starting the first couple of chapters with Victoria Woodhull in the 19th century, Scott then jumps back to the 18th century with a chapter on Mary Wollstonecraft – a strange decision, considering that the latter is

briefly mentioned beforehand, in the middle of Woodhull's chapter. Also, the small chapter exploring the origins of nymphomania, a condition wrongly associated with Edwina, just seems out of place and completely unnecessary.

On a similar note, the chapters do not flow easily from one to the next and feel completely separate, although this does make it ideal to dip in and out of. It might have helped if Scott had an introduction to explain his thought process and what he had hoped to achieve with this book, including his decision to pick these six women in particular. Instead, he waits till the very last couple of pages to try and tie it all together, in a way that almost makes it seem like an afterthought.

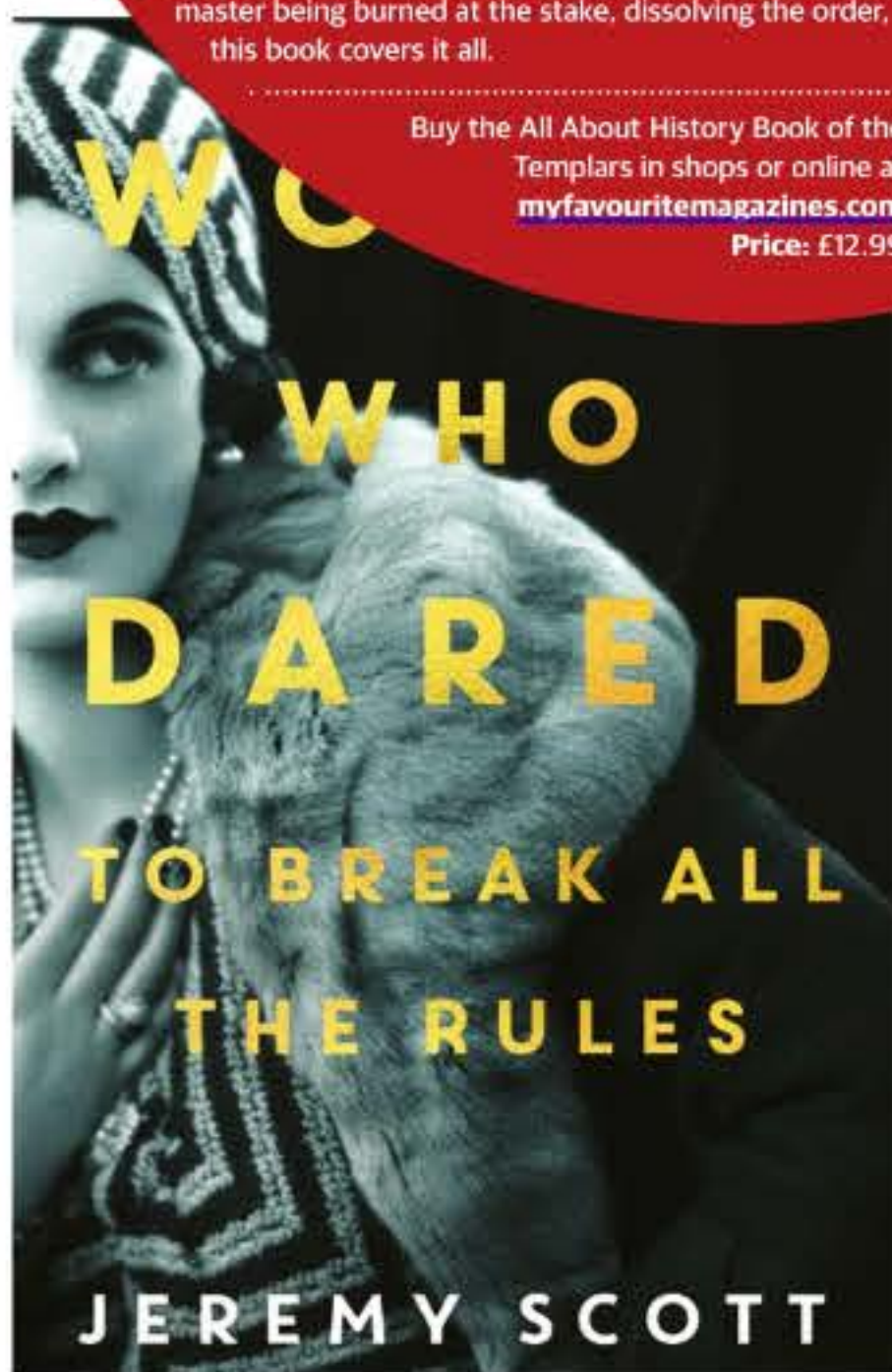


Templars: The Rise And Fall Of The Secretive Military Order

To this day the Knights Templar remain one of the most intriguing and mysterious groups from the Crusades era, steeped in myth and hearsay, often twisted into heroes or villains in the stories that followed. In this new book you can learn all about the order's structure and management, who its key leaders were and what battles they fought and won. From its formation to its last grand master being burned at the stake, dissolving the order, this book covers it all.



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Price: £12.99



ROSA LUXEMBURG



A fascinating and artful memorial to the doomed leftist icon

Director Margarethe von Trotta **Cast** Barbara Sukowa **Released:** Out Now

Barbara Sukowa earned the Best Actress prize at the 1986 Cannes Film Festival for her formidable and haunting performance as the early 20th century Marxist philosopher and revolutionary socialist, Rosa Luxemburg (1871-1919).

All movies focused on the lives and times of historical figures are posed with the same daunting problem. What to include and what to exclude? Where best to apply creative license? How to make history relevant to modern audiences? Margarethe von Trotta's German-language drama, re-released to mark the centenary of Luxemburg's murder by the Freikorps in January 1919, tackles such questions with tremendous inventiveness and deftness, crafting a screen drama highlighting how women played a vital intellectual role in Europe's leftist movements.

Focused on events between 1899-1919, von Trotta therefore disregarded standard cradle-to-grave

narratives of literary biography and countless movies. Neither does Sukowa resemble Luxemburg in any way, shape or form. In drawing upon and depicting the various imprisonments at home and abroad, public speeches and fraught moments (subplots revolve around key female friendships, occasional affairs of the heart, butting heads with chauvinistic revolutionaries and co-founding the Spartacus League), the result is an experimental, mosaic-like and impressionistic portrait of the woman friend and foe alike dubbed 'Red Rosa'.

Non-linear plotting, occasionally abrasive editing techniques and sudden scene transitions, and the absence of any onscreen text denoting specific dates and places (devices typically used to guide audiences), further aids the rewarding avant-garde mood and effect the filmmaker sort and achieved.





HISTORY WAR RECOMMENDS... KILLING NAPOLEON

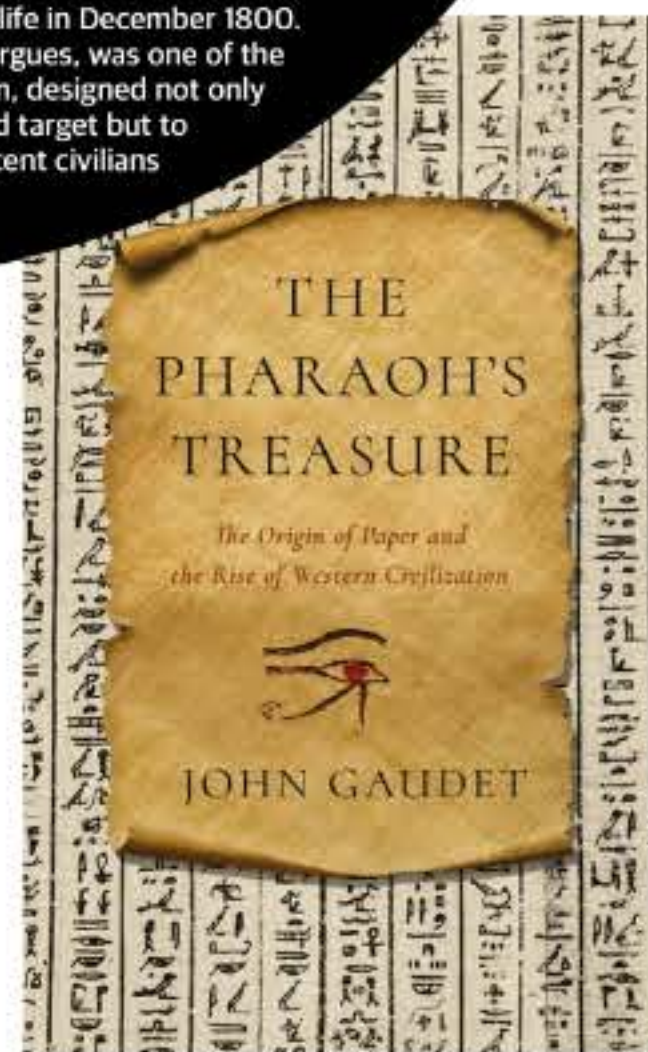
Author Jonathan North Price £20

Publisher Amberley Publishing

Out
now!

Almost 200 years since his death Napoleon continues to hold much fascination among academics and amateur historians alike. In his new book, Jonathan North investigates the not-so well-known assassination attempt on Napoleon's life in December 1800. The bomb plot, North argues, was one of the earliest acts of terrorism, designed not only to eliminate its intended target but to also kill and maim innocent civilians caught in the vicinity.

"The Pharaoh's Curse is an entertaining read and Gaudet's enthusiasm for his subject is infectious"



THE PHAROAH'S TREASURE



An examination of paper's role in the history of civilisation

Author John Gaudet Publisher Amberley Publishing
Price £16.99 Released Out now

In *The Pharaoh's Treasure: The Origins Of Paper And The Rise Of Western Civilization*, John Gaudet sets out to examine the history of human communication. More specifically, he recreates a world thousands of years ago in which rock paintings and carved tablets gradually give way to papyrus paper, a medium that revolutionised communication.

Gaudet provides a history of papyrus and its successors, from its earliest days and uses to modern paper production and beyond, that to a world in which electronic communication is becoming more and more prevalent. It is a story that travels the world and the millennia, witnessing the rise and fall of empires, the benefits and pitfalls of technological advancements and brings to life the march of progress that eventually ended the dominance of papyrus.

Yet this isn't simply a history of a medium, but of the world itself. Gaudet has a clear and engaging understanding of the intrinsic links between communication and the march of civilisation, and ably demonstrates how something so ubiquitous as paper played its part in the world we know today. He brings the ancient world vividly back to life, and it's a real pleasure to learn about not only how ancient documents were created, but how they were preserved and cared for too.

The Pharaoh's Treasure is an entertaining read and Gaudet's enthusiasm for his subject is infectious. He turns a topic that might have proved rather dry into a tale of adventure and achievement, filled with irresistible asides.

Vast,
Scholarly,
Enthusiastic
CC

THE TRUE HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE



A wonderfully entertaining romp through a confection's chronology

Author Sophie D Coe & Michael D Coe Publisher Thames & Hudson
Price £9.99 Released Out now

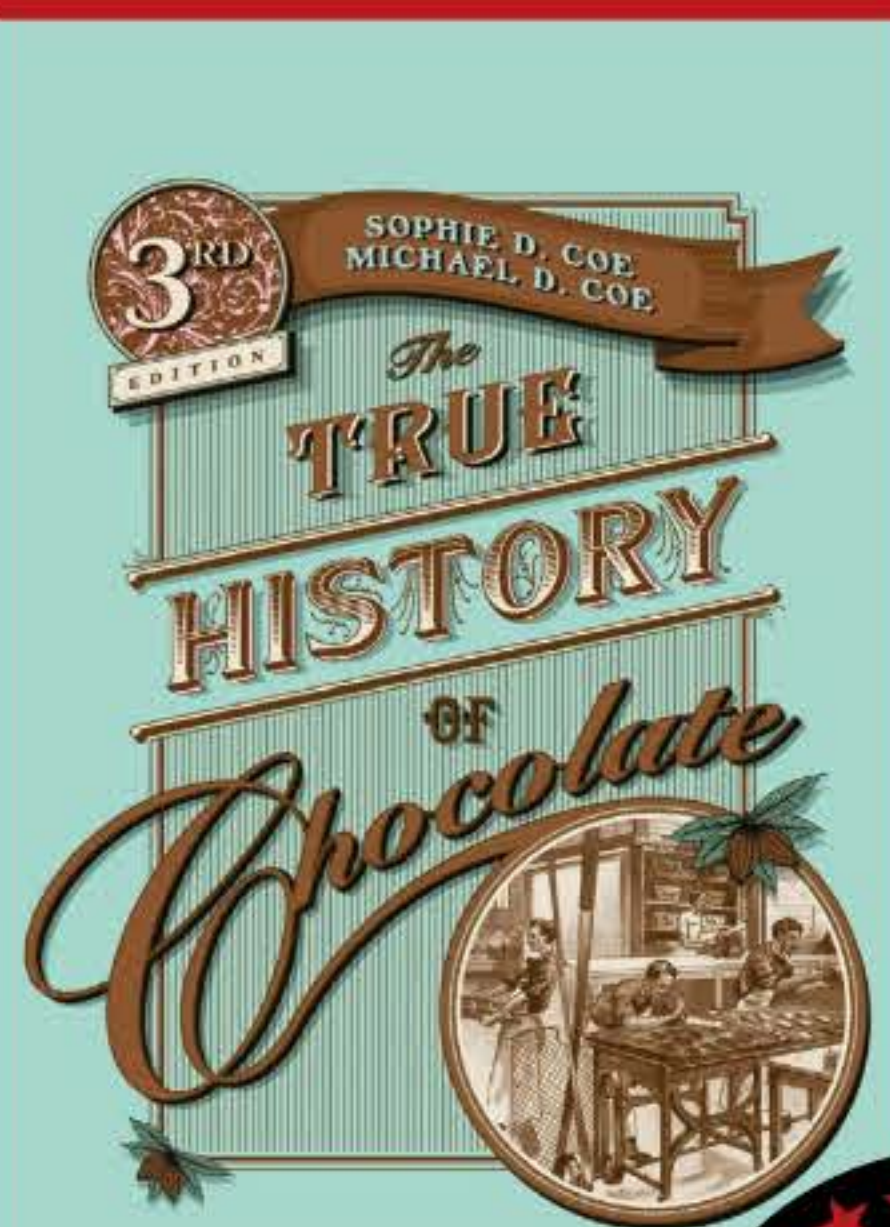
The True History Of Chocolate is a dream for chocoholics and historians everywhere, and it makes for fascinating reading. Beginning more than three thousand years ago in Central America, Stephanie D Coe and Michael D Coe delve into the disciplines of botany, archeology and social history to piece together the fascinating story of one of the world's most popular culinary commodities.

In their vast history of chocolate, the Coes examine how chocolate came to be, from its origins in Central America and its use as currency to its introduction to the west, where it became the drink of choice for the wealthy. How then did this status symbol become popular with the masses, easily accessible

and affordable, and what can it tell us not just about our own biology, but the ethics of the industry that produces it?

The True History Of Chocolate addresses all of these questions and more besides. Newly revised and updated, this richly illustrated, exhaustively researched book is a treasure trove of historical wonders and in the hands of the Coes, the story of chocolate takes on a vibrant, irresistible life.

Just like a tasty bar of chocolate, this hugely entertaining book is a real treat and deserves to be devoured. Insightful, scholarly and endlessly entertaining, it's highly recommended not just to chocoholics, but to anyone with an interest in the history of one of the world's most popular culinary delights.



Thames & Hudson

Readable,
Exhaustive,
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OUTLAW KING

Netflix's bold attempt to create its very own *Braveheart*

Certificate 18 **Director** David Mackenzie **Cast** Chris Pine, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Florence Pugh, Billy Howle **Released:** Out now (Netflix)

With a reported budget of \$120 million, there were high expectations for David Mackenzie's take on Robert the Bruce and the fight for Scottish independence. Unsurprisingly, *Outlaw*

King has drawn comparisons to the Oscar-winning epic *Braveheart*, but how does it fare in its own right?

At the beginning we meet Bruce (Chris Pine), a Scottish noble, as he reluctantly swears loyalty to King Edward I of England (Stephen Dillane). He marries Edward's goddaughter, Elizabeth de Burgh (Florence Pugh) but after hearing about the death of William Wallace at the hands of the English, Bruce decides that it is time to revolt.

Securing the Scottish crown, Bruce leads his people in a guerrilla campaign to gain freedom from the English. Just as you would expect from medieval epics such as this one, *Outlaw King* is full of blood, violence and gore, and as the 18 certificate suggests, is not for the faint-hearted.

The film presents a simplified version of the Scottish fight for independence and there is certainly more of a focus on Bruce's personal motivations for rebelling, rather than exploring the complicated political issues behind it – and at times the pacing lags.

"Full of blood, violence and gore, and as the 18 certificate suggests, not for the faint-hearted"

When it comes to historical accuracy, *Outlaw King* doesn't do too badly in comparison to the wildly inaccurate *Braveheart*. The costumes are pretty much on point, Elizabeth really was imprisoned by the English and Bruce's main supporters, Angus Og Macdonald and James Douglas (played by Tony Curran and Aaron Taylor-Johnson respectively) are also true to form. Even Edward's large trebuchet, seen at the start of the film, is historically accurate.

Interestingly, Mackenzie chooses to conclude with Bruce's victory at the bloody battle of Loudoun Hill rather than the famous battle of Bannockburn, which occurred seven years later. It is here where we see one of the film's biggest historical inaccuracies with

the presence of Edward, Prince of Wales (Billy Howle), King Edward's son, when in reality he was never at Loudoun Hill.

It is a shame that the film shies away from exploring Robert's darker side, particularly when he stabs his rival for the Scottish crown, John III Comyn, to death in a church (which actually happened). Perhaps it's because it would be harder to evoke sympathy for Bruce as a ruthless murderer, but it is one of the many cases where characterisation in the film is lacking.

The casting of Chris Pine is not as jarring as you might expect, although his Scottish accent is questionable at times. It is a shame that in the lead up to the film's release, the buzz concentrated on his full-frontal nudity scene, which turns out to be extremely brief.

Overall, *Outlaw King* is enjoyable with a good cast, although it would have been nice to see more of Florence Pugh. In fact, it is almost worth seeing the film just for its breathtaking scenery, which will make you want to visit Scotland as soon as possible.



FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival 2019

30 MARCH - 7 APRIL

We speak with Yossef Rapoport about his work on recent book *Lost Maps Of The Caliphs*



Could you tell us a little about how the *Book of Curiosities* was discovered and how you became involved with putting this

new book together?

The story of this book is really a story of discovery. Emilie [Savage-Smith, co-author of *Lost Maps Of The Caliphs*] discovered them, or as Emilie likes to say, the manuscripts discovered her. They called her back in 2000 from Christie's because she's a senior specialist in the history of Islamic science, and said, "We have this manuscript and we don't know what to do with it and it's already in the catalogue, but we think we may have undervalued it." So, she took some photos and showed it around and realised this was a series of maps that are not only unique, but of supreme value.

Some of the maps are like nothing we would understand as cartography, showing details in oblong shapes rather than geographical outlines. How would they have been read?

So the lines are simple, it's like a diagram that you have without orientation. They know where north and south are, they know directions and even distances, approximately, but the map maker actually says 'I could have done it with technical devices

and calculated how to draw the map, but then how could anyone read it?' Because you do not have a compass yet, because you're working with very crude navigation with the stars and the sun and so forth, what you really want to know is how to plan a journey. For that, what you need is a diagram that sets out in sequence the stages of your journey for what comes next.

Is it almost like a visual version of how you might give someone directions by telling them landmarks to look out for on their journey?

There is an element of that, but think of the Tube map. This is a closer example because a map doesn't have space for the directions you describe. So the Tube map is a good example because you simplify and make it into a diagram and the reason is the same, because when we are underground we don't have the navigation tools we have overground. A medieval person would be in a bit of a similar situation. They would know generally where is north and where is south, but they wouldn't be able to measure it in a precise way. Even if you make the map precise, the user doesn't have the tools to measure it.

Read our full interview on historyanswers.co.uk. *Lost Maps Of The Caliphs: Drawing The World In Eleventh-Century Cairo* by Yossef Rapoport and Emilie Savage-Smith is available now

Must-see events

HISTORIES OF THE UNEXPECTED



Sam Willis & James Daybell

Sunday, 31 March 2019, 2pm

Massive world events can sometimes be traced back to seemingly inconsequential moments, as these presentations will help to illustrate.

THE KING'S WAR



Peter Conradi & Mark Logue

Monday, 1 April 2019, 2pm

Find out how Lionel Logue continued to play an important role in the life of George VI long after the events of *The King's Speech*.

NEW WORLD, INC: HOW ENGLAND'S MERCHANTS FOUNDED AMERICA AND LAUNCHED THE BRITISH EMPIRE



Simon Targett

Tuesday, 2 April 2019, 2pm

Split between London and the Eastern shores of the New World, learn how new innovations and a drive for fresh opportunities helped reshape the Empire.

LOST MAPS OF THE CALIPHS



Yossef Rapoport & Emilie Savage-Smith

Thursday, 4 April 2019, 12pm

Islamic experts tell us about the discovery of the *Book of Curiosities* and how it broadens our understanding of medieval Islamic thought.

PATRIOT OR TRAITOR: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH



Anna Beer

Sunday, 7 April 2019, 4pm

Learn how the famed adventurer, poet and writer went from being Elizabeth I's favourite to being locked in the Tower of London.

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Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Director: Josie Rourke **Starring:** Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie, Jack Lowden **Country:** UK, USA **Released:** 2019

This stylish drama promises scandal, intrigue and betrayal, but can it deliver on historical accuracy?



VERDICT An entertaining film that falls to get the facts right

01 At the beginning of the film, Mary arrives in Scotland after the death of her husband, King Francis II of France. She moves into Holyrood Palace but the sombre palace depicted in the film is a far cry from the stately real-life one.



02 The film correctly shows Elizabeth suggesting her own favourite, Robert Dudley, as a suitor for Mary's hand, much to his dismay. However, Dudley never travelled to Scotland to meet Mary as he does in the film - they eventually met by chance in 1577.



03 Elizabeth suffered from hair loss and facial scarring due to her bout of smallpox, something that is portrayed accurately in the film. While it is true that a meeting was arranged and cancelled between the two queens it was not because of Elizabeth's smallpox, as suggested.



04 Darnley was indeed staying at Kirk o'Field when it exploded, with his body found in the orchard nearby. At the time, it was noted that Darnley appeared to have died from strangulation rather than from the explosion, and his murder is depicted in the film.



05 The long-awaited meeting between Mary and Elizabeth towards the end of the film is entirely fictional. In reality, Mary spent over two decades trying to arrange a meeting with her English counterpart, but Elizabeth continually made excuses.



NEXT ISSUE

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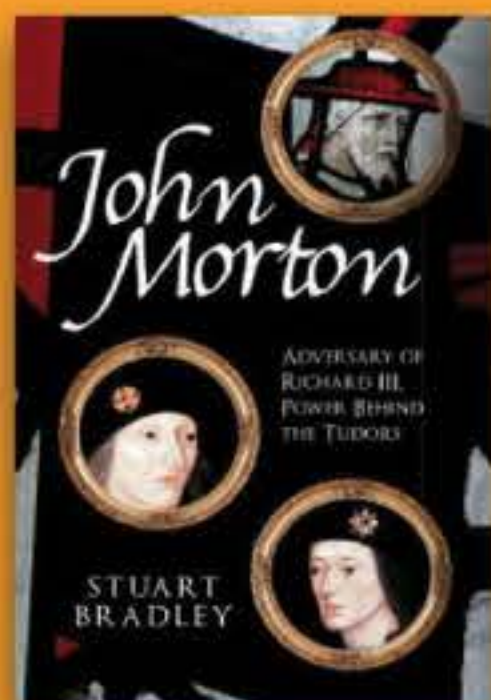
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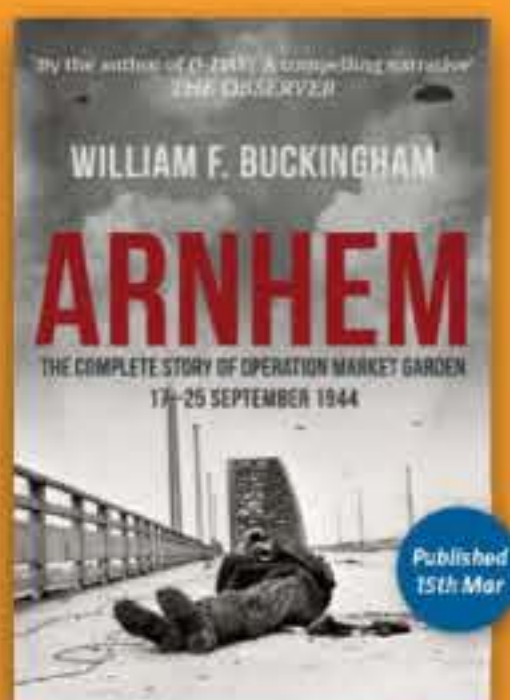
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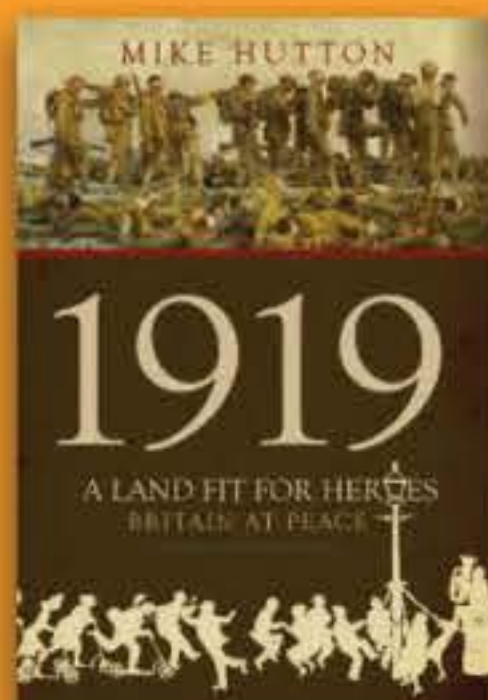
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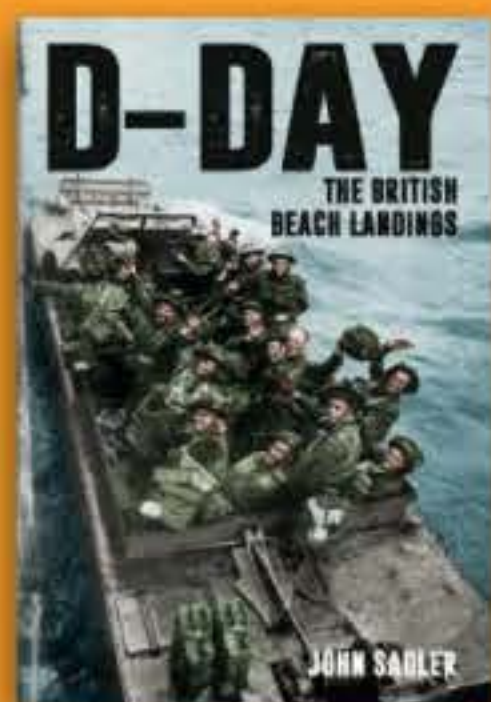
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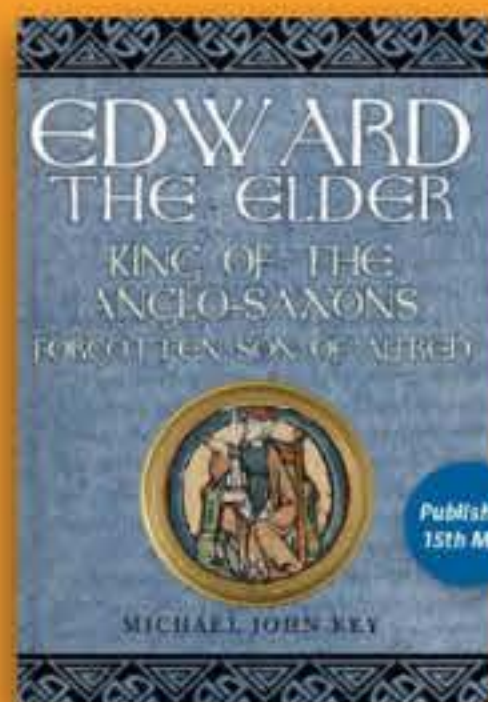
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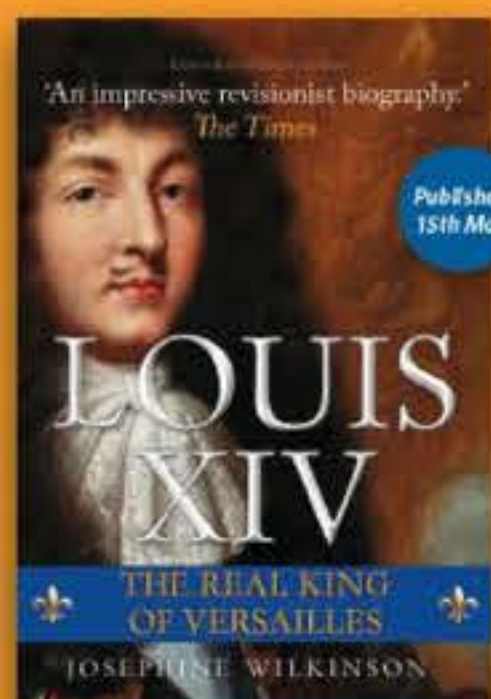
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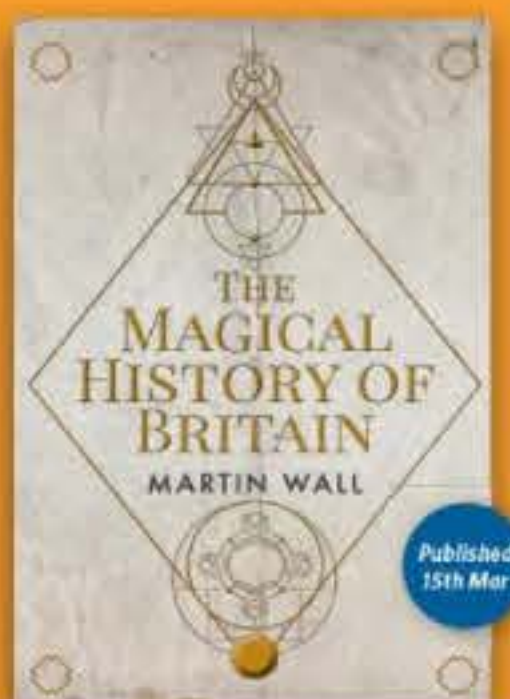
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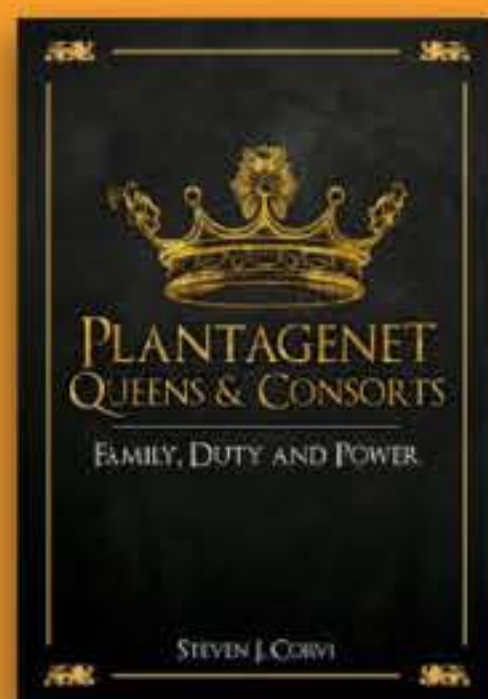
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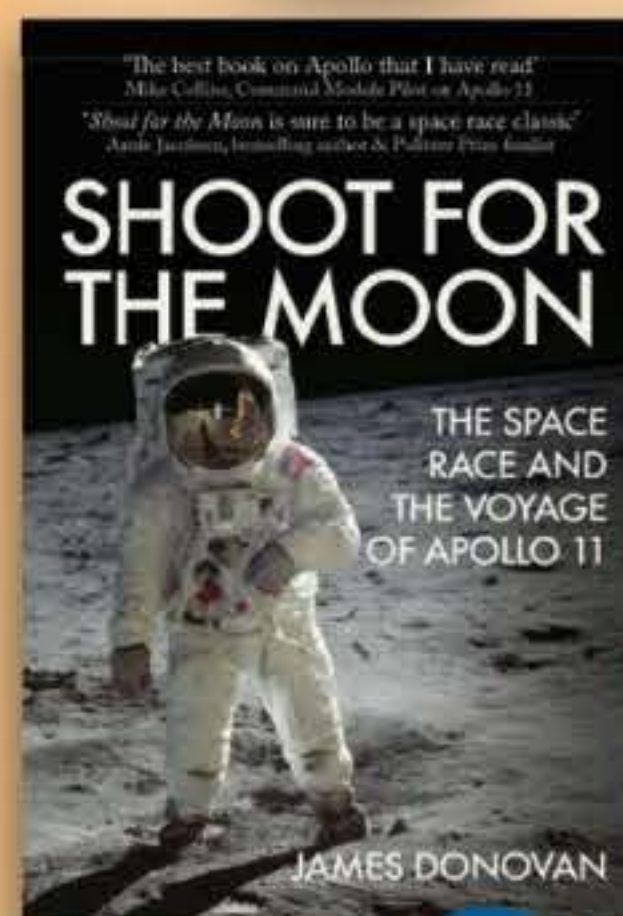
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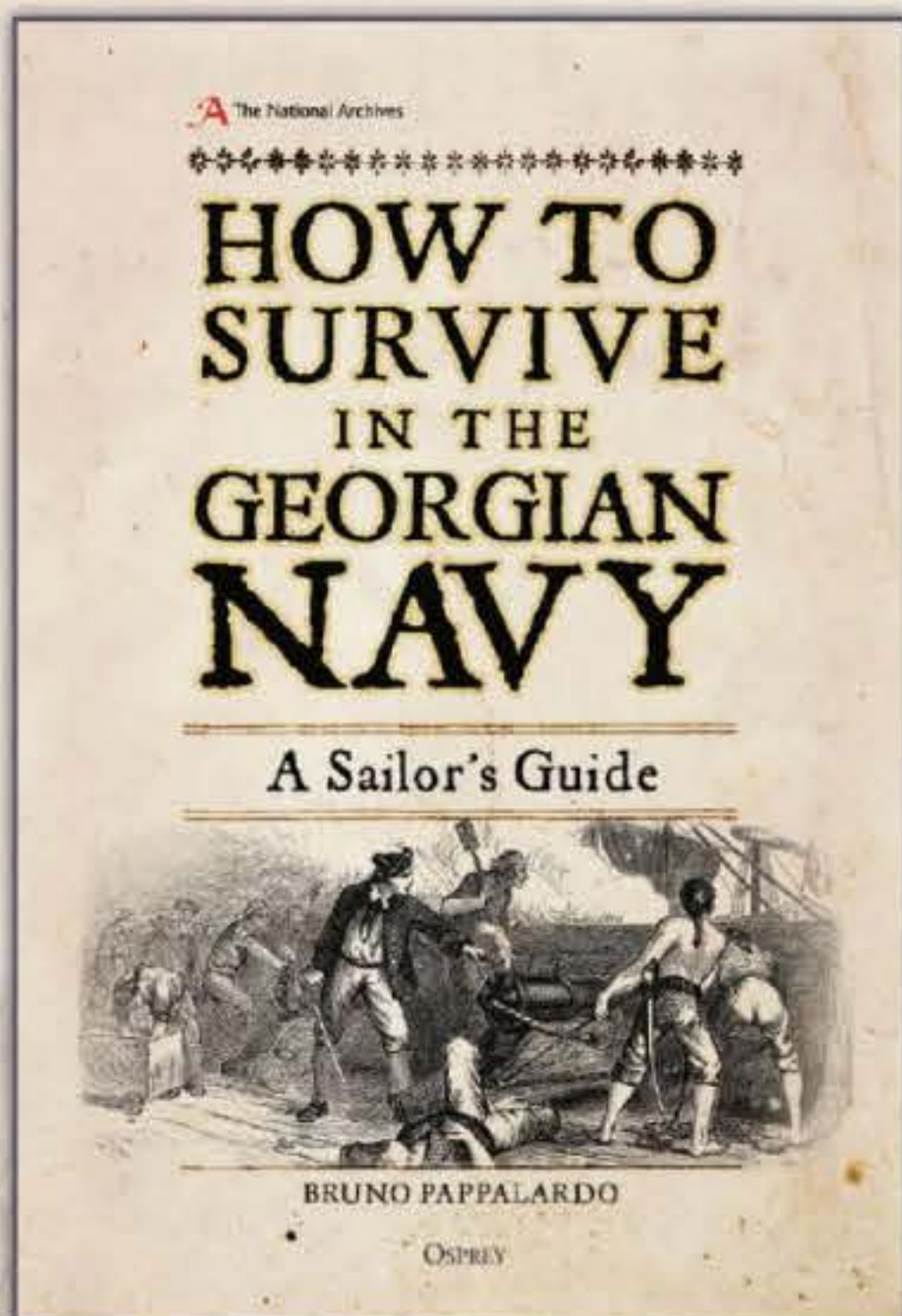
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